PKNA #40
LIRE 4000
EURO 2,07

PKNA
NEW ADVENTURES PAPERINIK

A SINGLE BREATH

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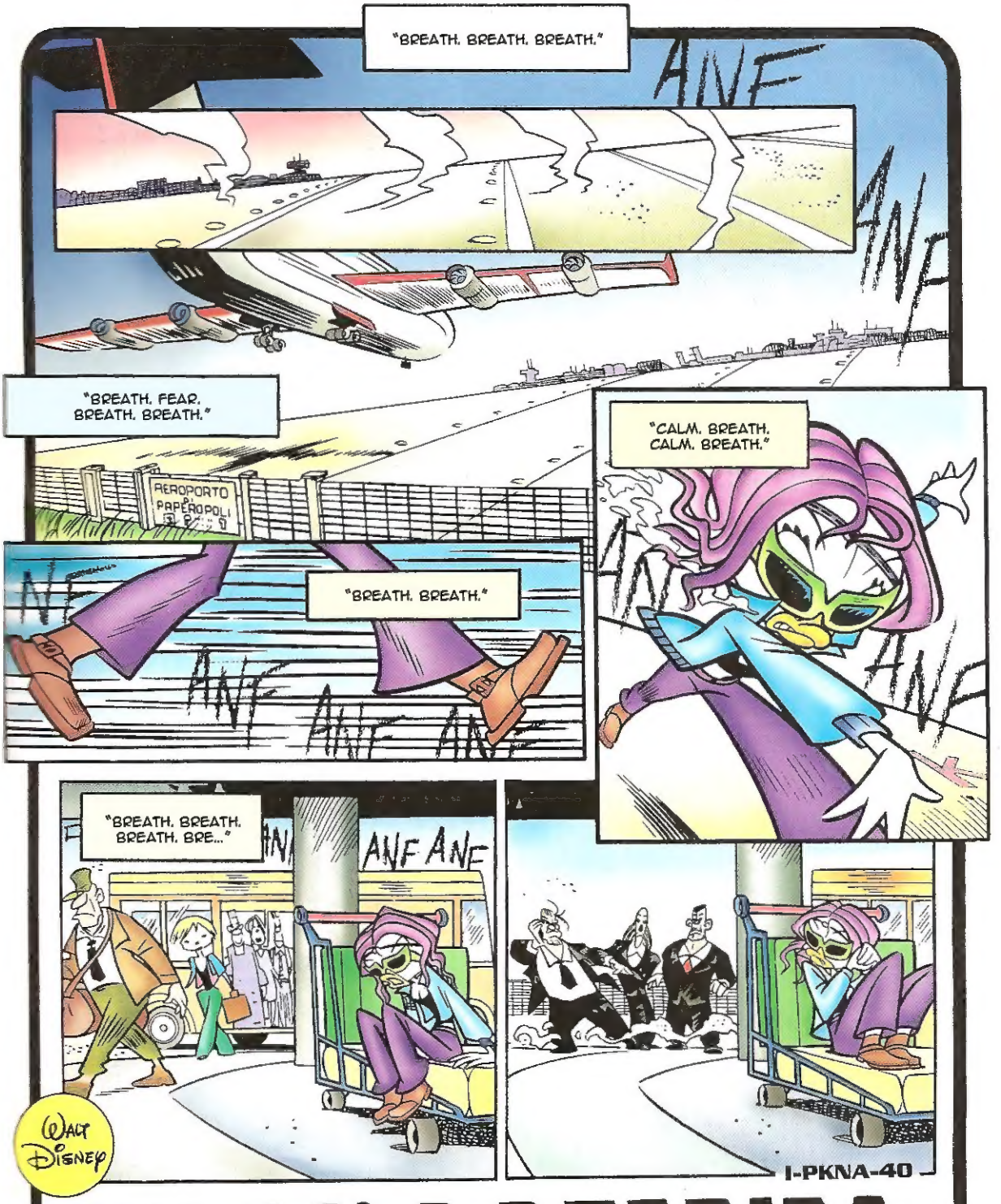
A SINGLE BREATH

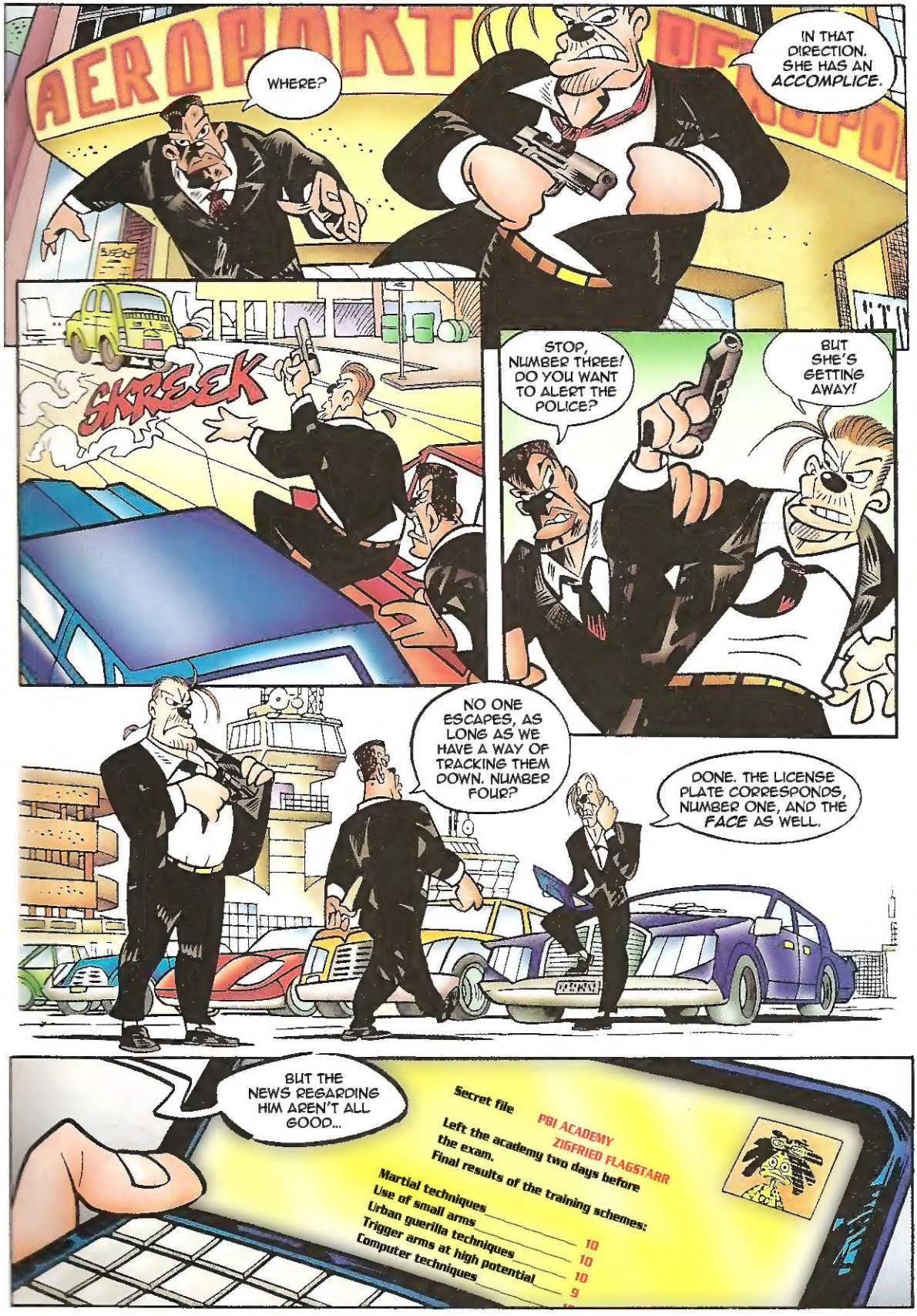


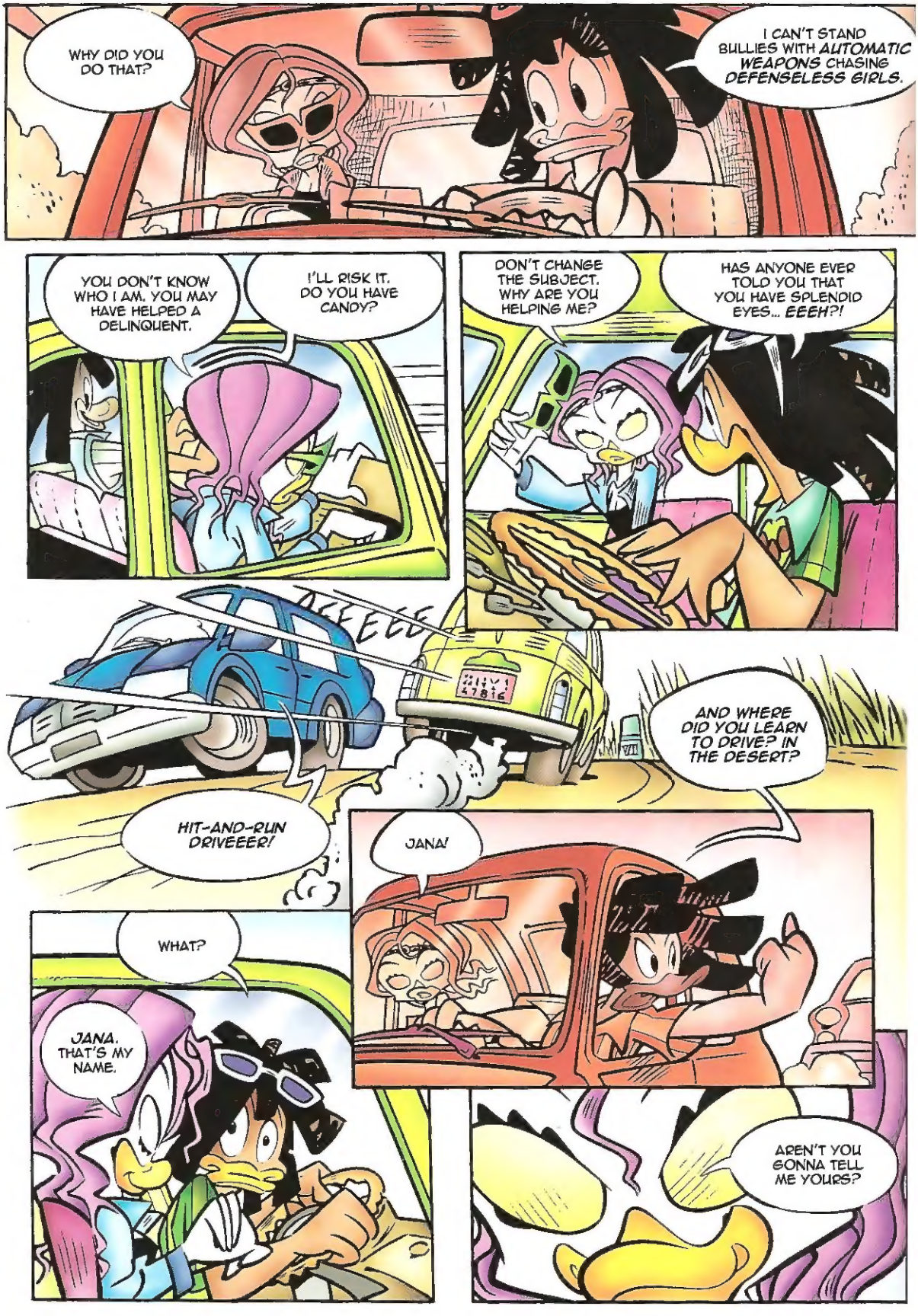
UN SOLO RESPIRO

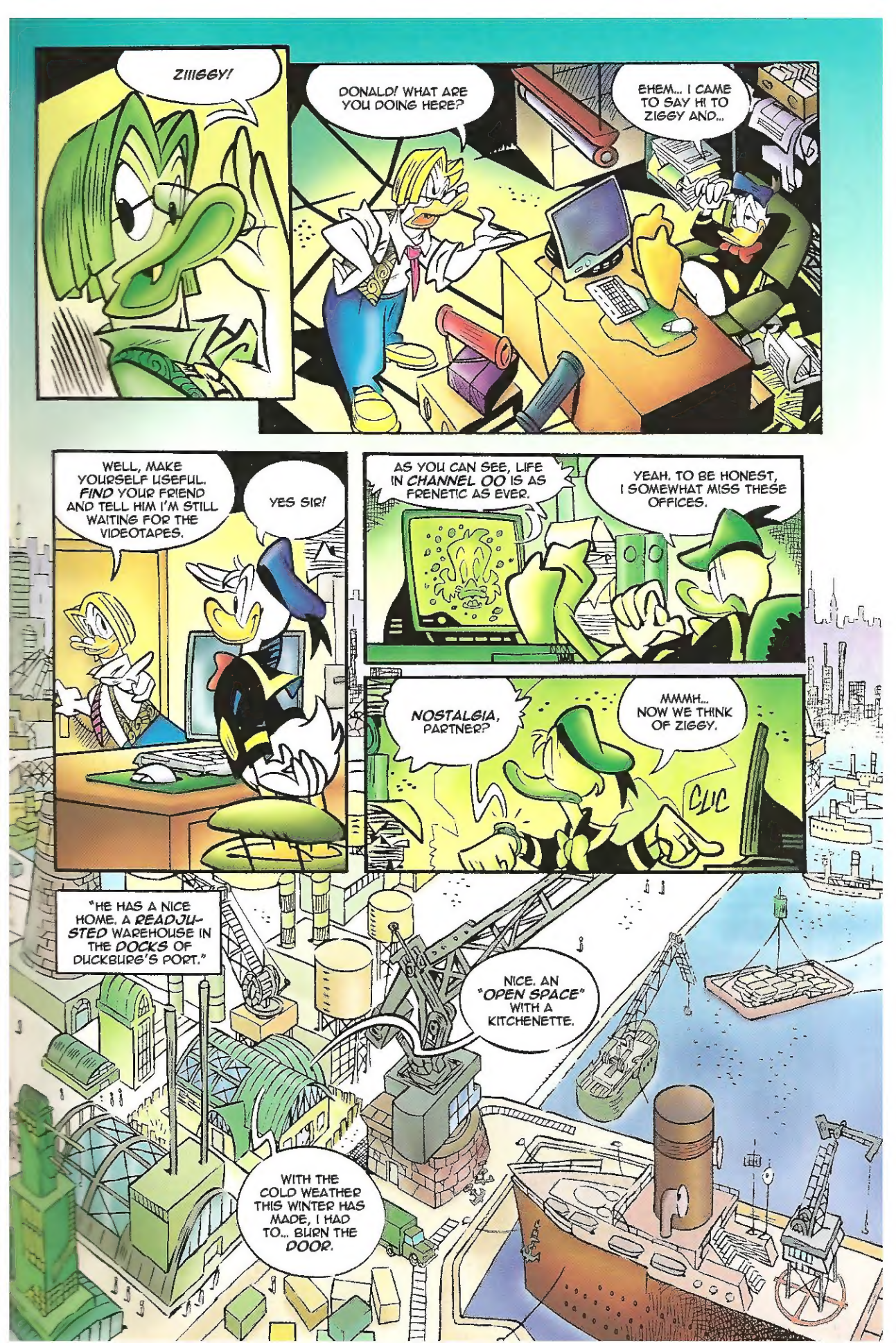
DOGANA
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE PACKAGE.
BAGGAGE CHECK
BOYD, HOW LONG HAVE WE KNOWN EACH OTHER? THREE YEARS?
DON'T TRY, ZIGGY. YOU KNOW THE CLEARING PROCEDURES.
DELIVERY
IF YOUR BOSS TRUSTED THE POST OFFICE, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE NAGGING ME.
THE LAST TIME DAN WOODSTEIN TRUSTED IT, THE POSTMAN LOST THE VIDEOTAPE CONTAINING THE STORY OF THE CENTURY.
HOWEVER, I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU. I'LL STAY OUTSIDE AND...
HEY!
TUMP
THERE YOU ARE!

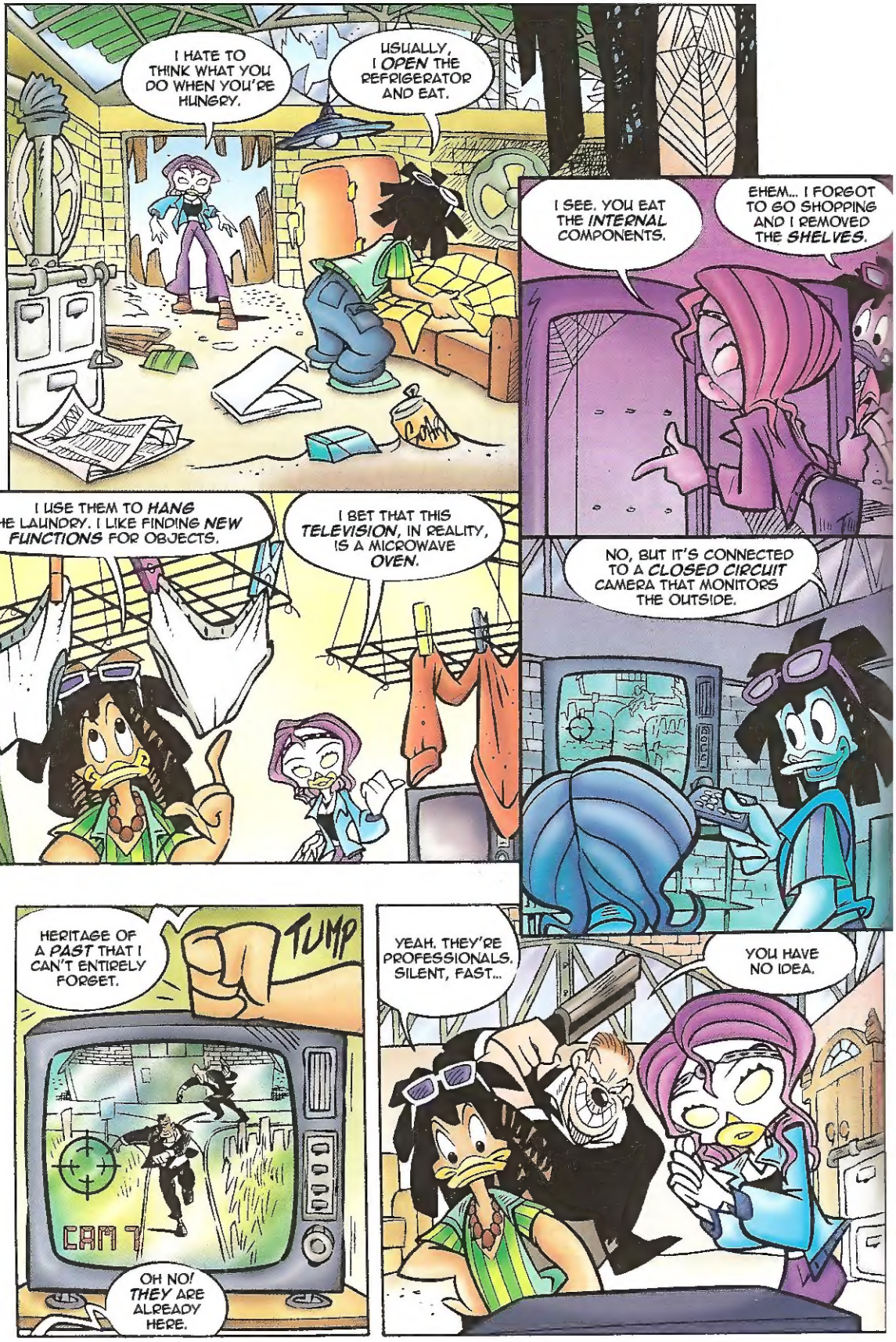
ARGH!
TUMP
NUMBER THREE HERE. THE PREY IS HEADING TOWARDS THE EXIT.
HEY, PAL. EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
GET AWAY FRO...
SOCK
WHACK
EHEM! I CAN'T STAND IMPOLITE PEOPLE.
NEITHER DO I, YOUNG MAN. BUT I PREFER BOXING TO KARATE.
ARRIVALS
NEWSPAPERS

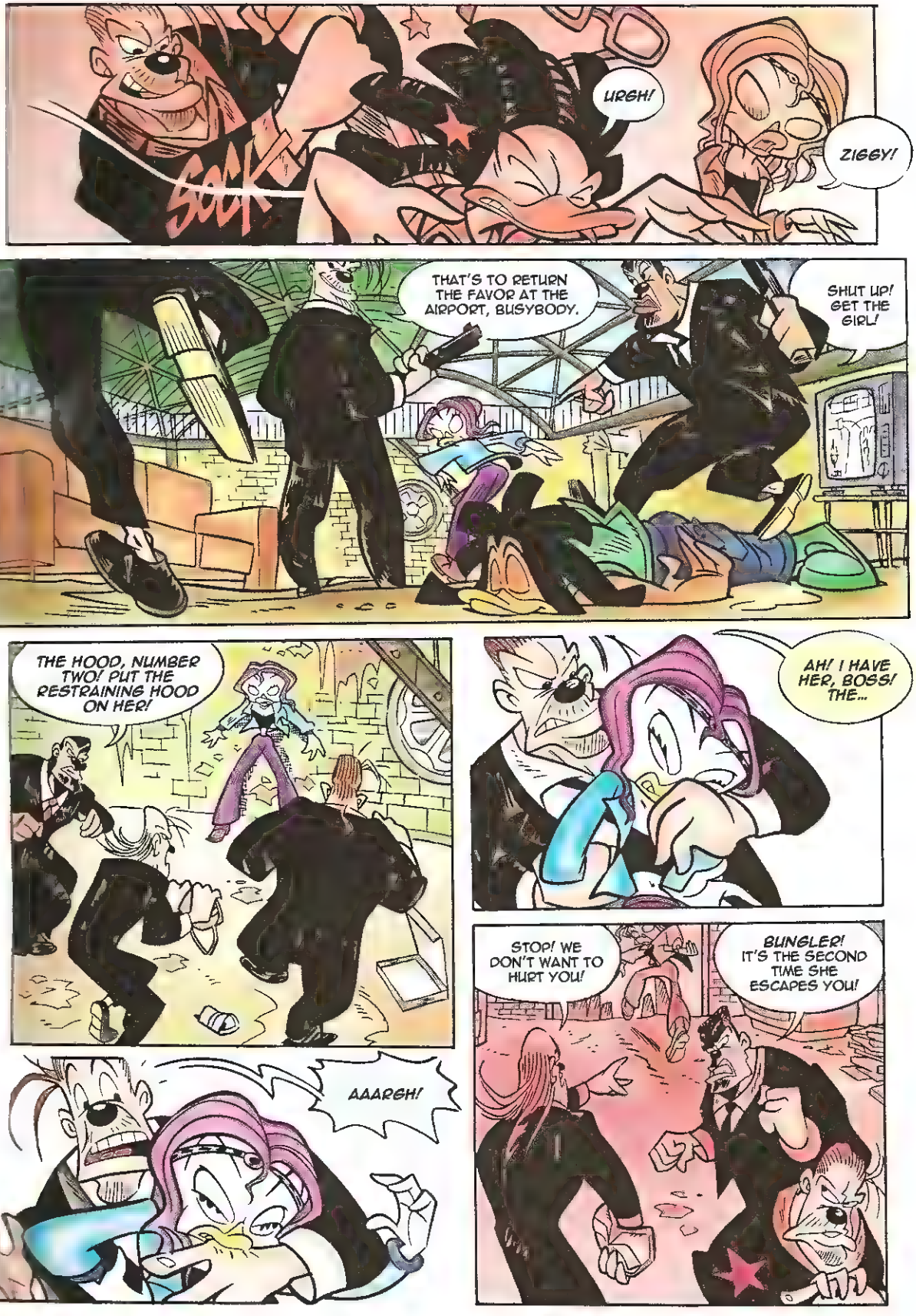
PLEASE, LET ME TAKE THIS TAXI! IT'S A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE!
YEAH, RIGHT!
HALT!
IIIH! JUST TAKE IT!
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING...
AND WHO ARE YOU?
I-I DON'T THINK SO!
URGH!
TONK
... BUT I DON'T REALLY WANT TO.
SWISS
TONF
DO YOU ALSO HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?


AEROPORT
WHERE?
IN THAT DIRECTION. SHE HAS AN ACCOMPLICE.
SKREEK
STOP, NUMBER THREE! DO YOU WANT TO ALERT THE POLICE?
BUT SHE'S GETTING AWAY!
NO ONE ESCAPES, AS LONG AS WE HAVE A WAY OF TRACKING THEM DOWN. NUMBER FOUR?
DONE. THE LICENSE PLATE CORRESPONDS, NUMBER ONE, AND THE FACE AS WELL.
BUT THE NEWS REGARDING HIM AREN'T ALL GOOD...
Secret file
PBI ACADEMY
ZIGFRIED FLAGSTARR
Left the academy two days before the exam.
Final results of the training schemes:
Martial techniques
Use of small arms 10
Urban guerilla techniques 10
Trigger arms at high potential 10
Computer techniques 9

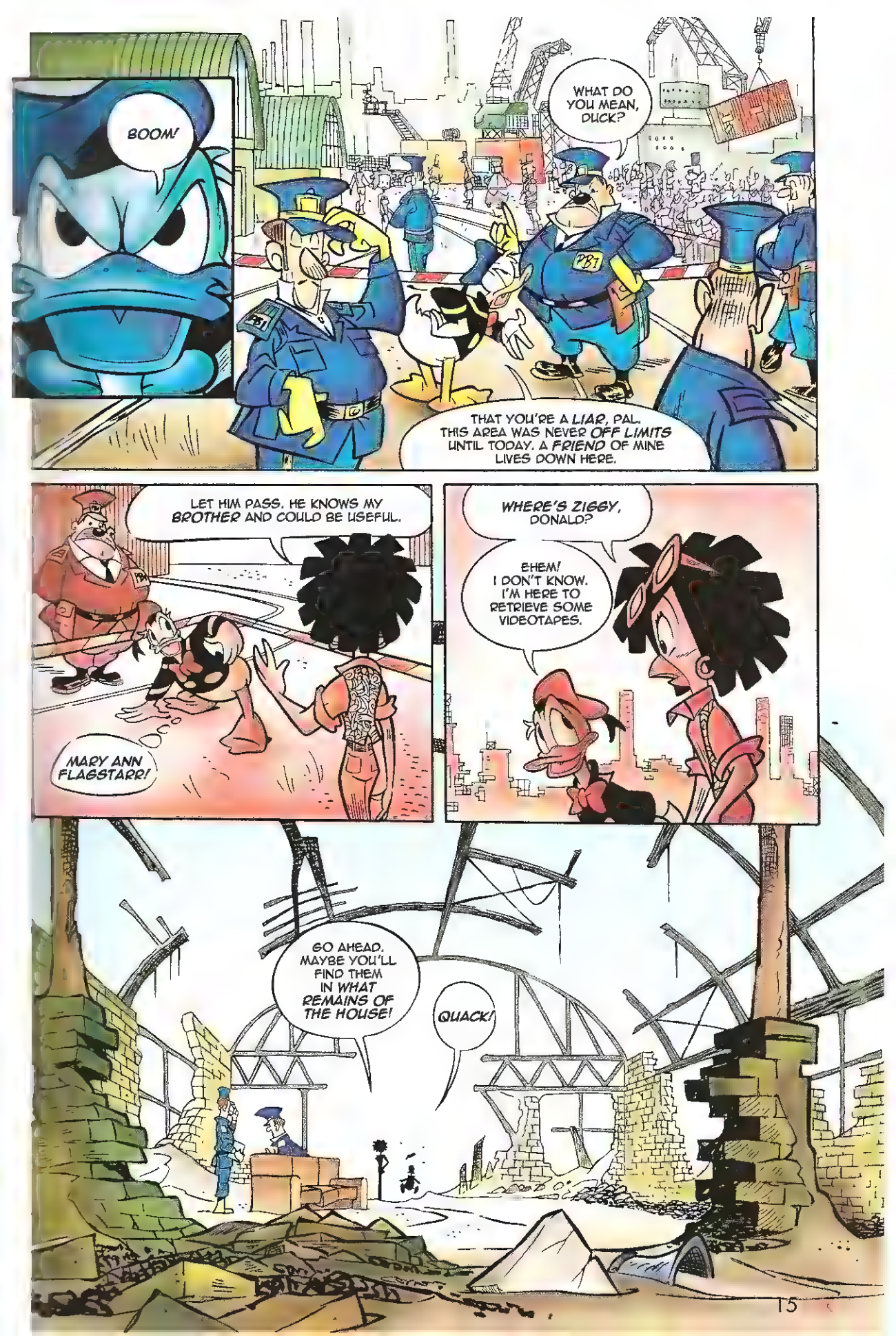

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
I CAN'T STAND BULLIES WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS CHASING DEFENSELESS GIRLS.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM. YOU MAY HAVE HELPED A DELINQUENT.
I'LL RISK IT. DO YOU HAVE CANDY?
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT. WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU HAVE SPLENDID EYES... EEEH?!
AND WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DRIVE? IN THE DESERT?
HIT-AND-RUN DRIVEEER!
JANA!
WHAT?
JANA. THAT'S MY NAME.
AREN'T YOU GONNA TELL ME YOURS?

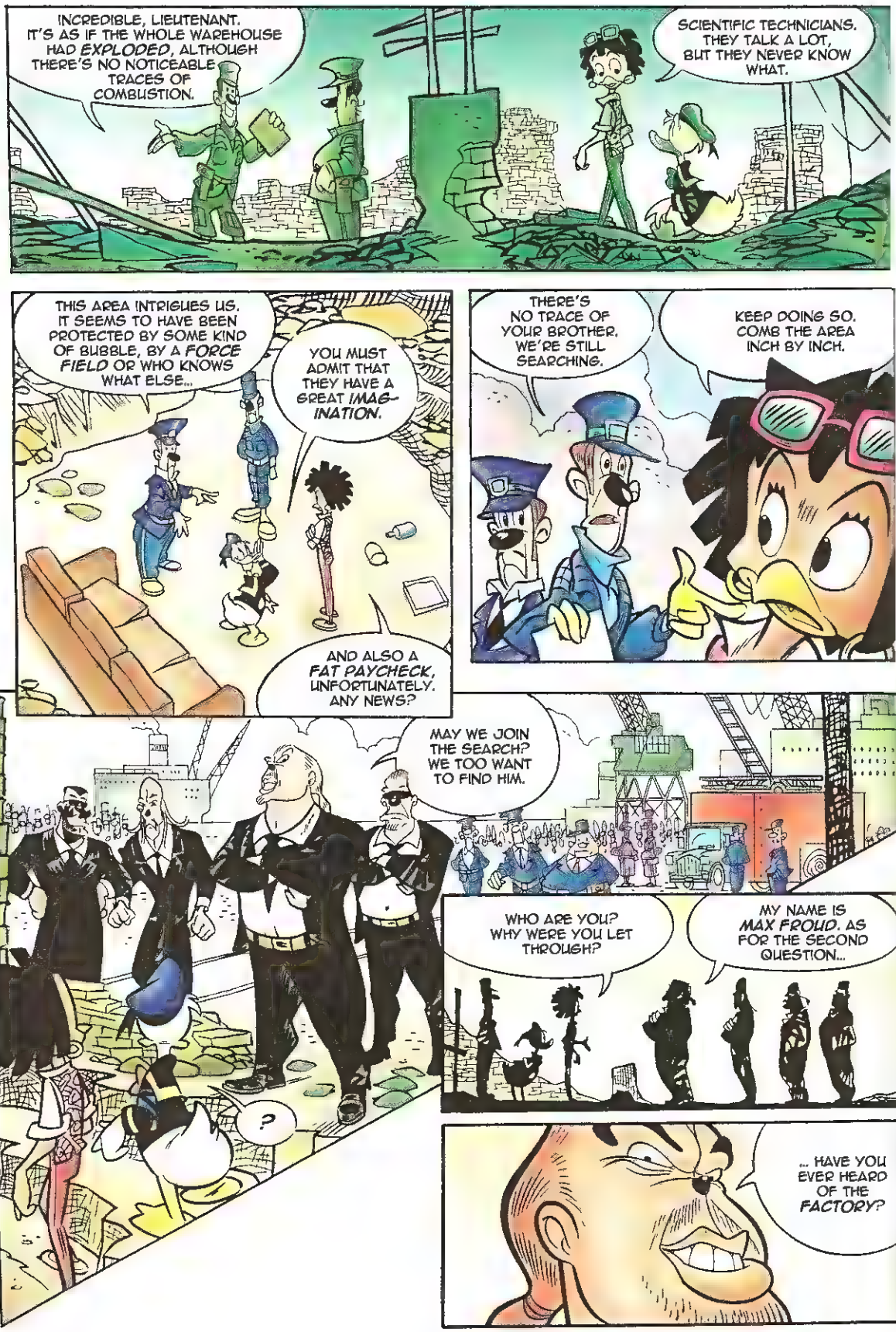

ZIIIGGY!
DONALD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EHEM... I CAME TO SAY HI TO ZIGGY AND...
WELL, MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL. FIND YOUR FRIEND AND TELL HIM I'M STILL WAITING FOR THE VIDEOTAPES.
YES SIR!
AS YOU CAN SEE, LIFE IN CHANNEL OO IS AS FRENETIC AS EVER.
YEAH. TO BE HONEST, I SOMEWHAT MISS THESE OFFICES.
NOSTALGIA, PARTNER?
MMMH... NOW WE THINK OF ZIGGY.
CLIC
"HE HAS A NICE HOME. A READJUSTED WAREHOUSE IN THE DOCKS OF DUCKBURG'S PORT."
NICE. AN "OPEN SPACE" WITH A KITCHENETTE.
WITH THE COLD WEATHER THIS WINTER HAS MADE, I HAD TO... BURN THE DOOR.

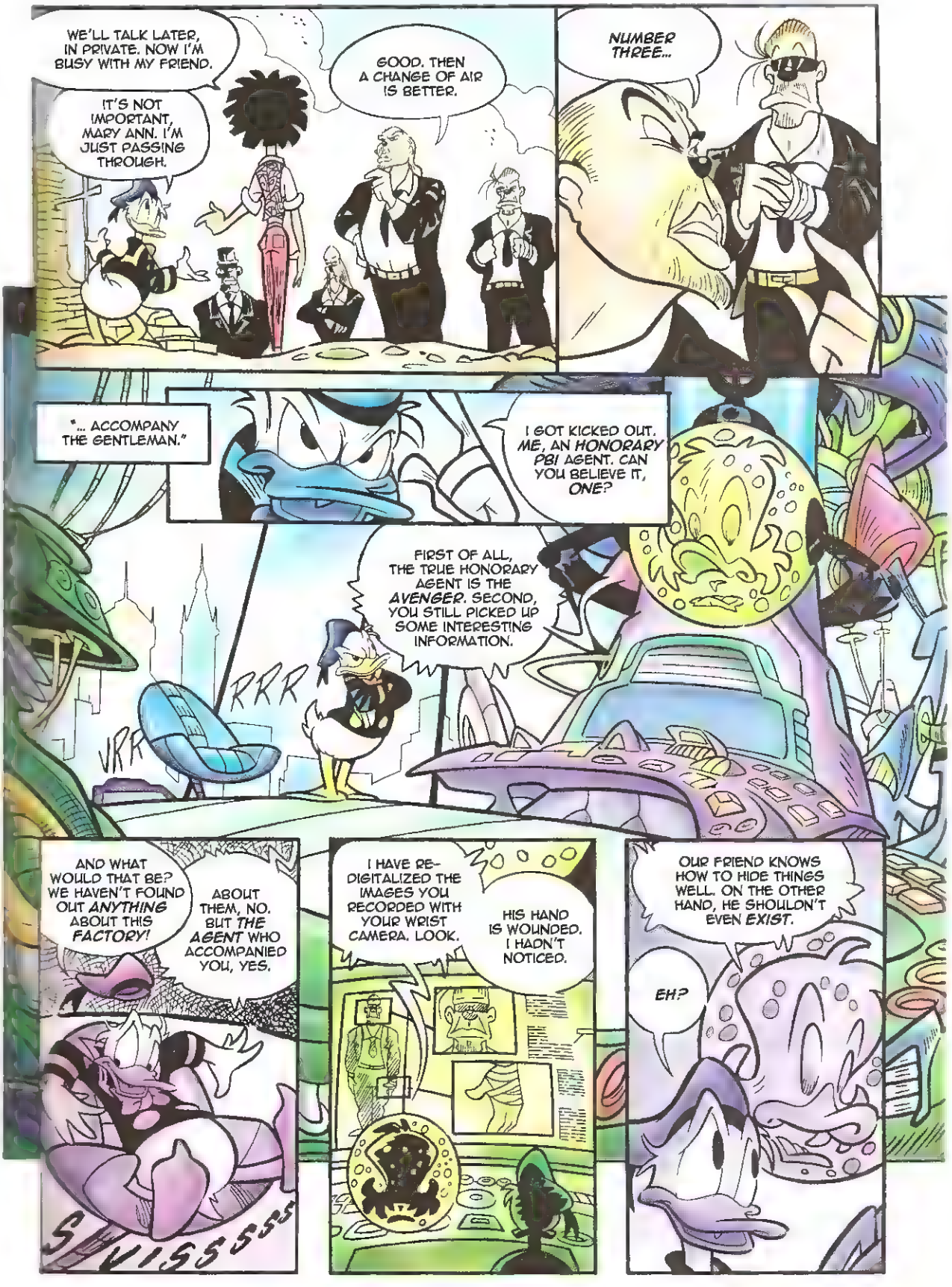

I HATE TO THINK WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY.
USUALLY, I *OPEN* THE REFRIGERATOR AND EAT.
I SEE. YOU EAT THE *INTERNAL* COMPONENTS.
EHEM... I FORGOT TO GO SHOPPING AND I REMOVED THE *SHELVES*.
I USE THEM TO *HANG* THE LAUNDRY. I LIKE FINDING *NEW FUNCTIONS* FOR OBJECTS.
I BET THAT THIS *TELEVISION*, IN REALITY, IS A MICROWAVE *OVEN*.
NO, BUT IT'S CONNECTED TO A *CLOSED CIRCUIT* CAMERA THAT MONITORS THE OUTSIDE.
HERITAGE OF A *PAST* THAT I CAN'T ENTIRELY FORGET.
TUMP
CAM 7
OH NO! *THEY* ARE ALREADY HERE.
YEAH. THEY'RE PROFESSIONALS. SILENT, FAST...
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

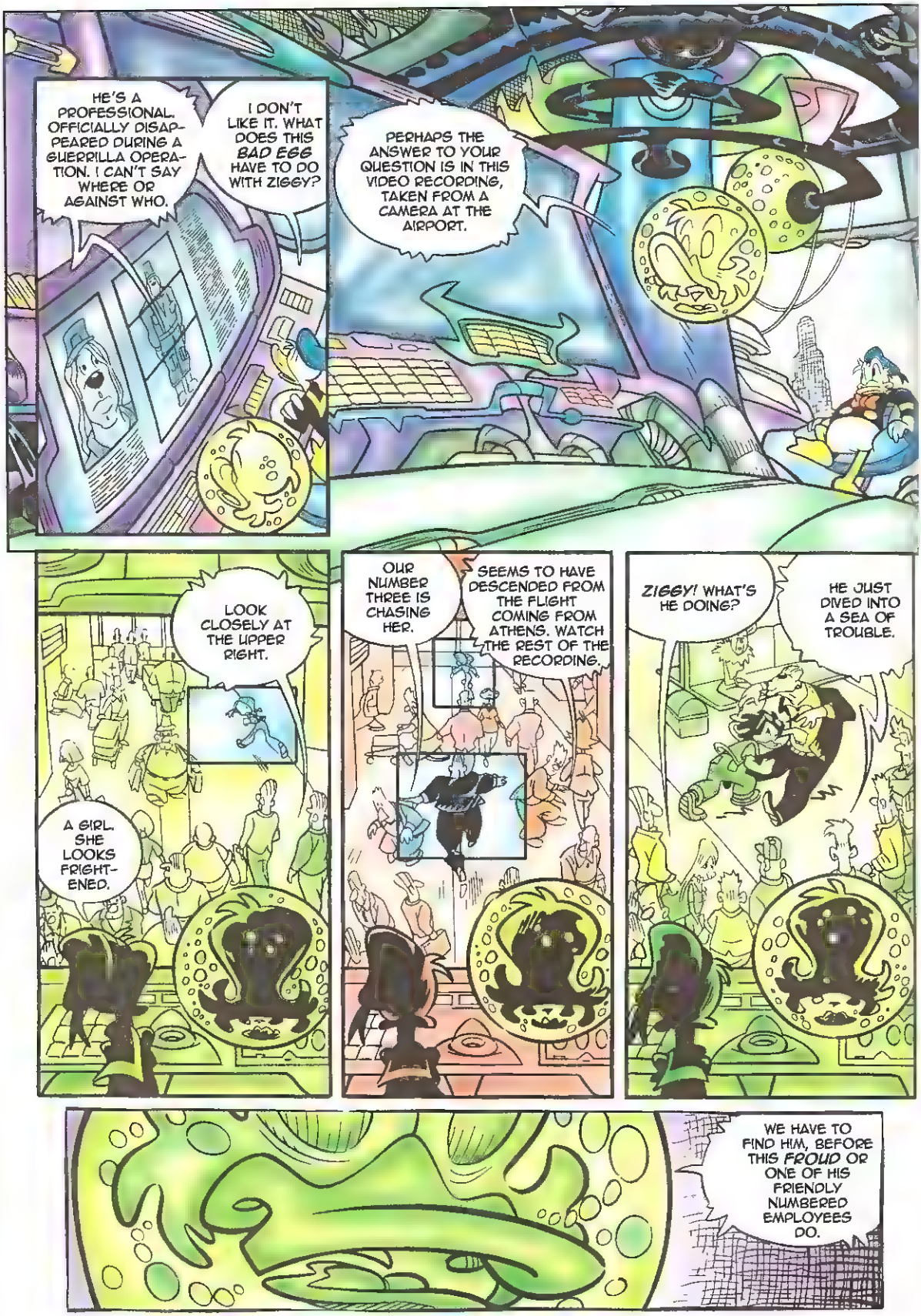

SOCK
URGH!
ZIGGY!
THAT'S TO RETURN THE FAVOR AT THE AIRPORT, BUSYBODY.
SHUT UP! GET THE GIRL!
THE HOOD, NUMBER TWO! PUT THE RESTRAINING HOOD ON HER!
AH! I HAVE HER, BOSS! THE...
AAARGH!
STOP! WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
BUNGLER! IT'S THE SECOND TIME SHE ESCAPES YOU!

DO YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR FRIEND?
NO! STOP! DON'T...
"BREATH."
... TOUCH HIM.
"BREATH. BREATH."
"BREATH. BREATH. BREATH."

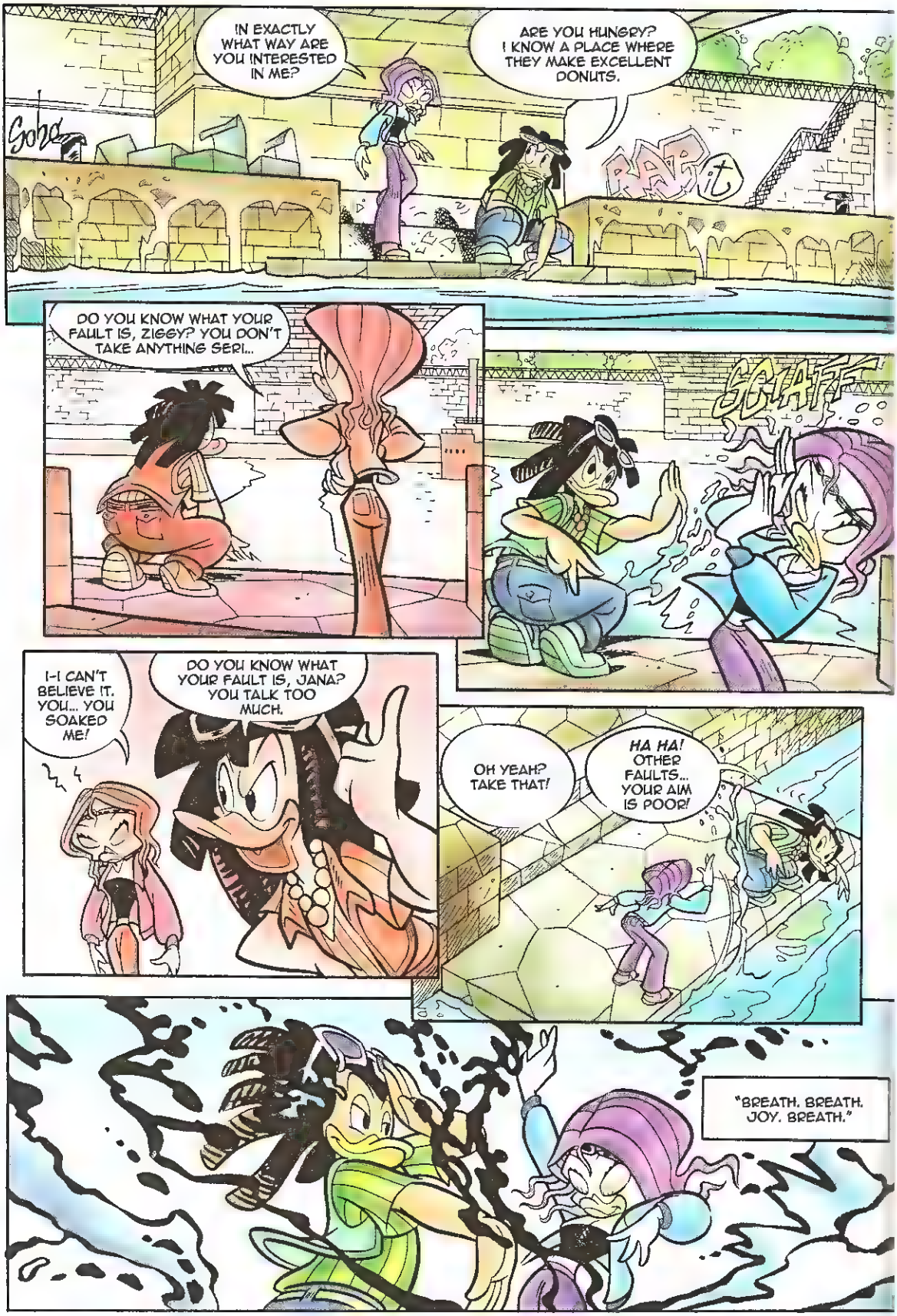

BOOM!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DUCK?
THAT YOU'RE A LIAR, PAL. THIS AREA WAS NEVER OFF LIMITS UNTIL TODAY. A FRIEND OF MINE LIVES DOWN HERE.
LET HIM PASS. HE KNOWS MY BROTHER AND COULD BE USEFUL.
MARY ANN FLAGSTARR!
WHERE'S ZIGGY, DONALD?
EHEM! I DON'T KNOW. I'M HERE TO RETRIEVE SOME VIDEOTAPES.
GO AHEAD. MAYBE YOU'LL FIND THEM IN WHAT REMAINS OF THE HOUSE!
QUACK!

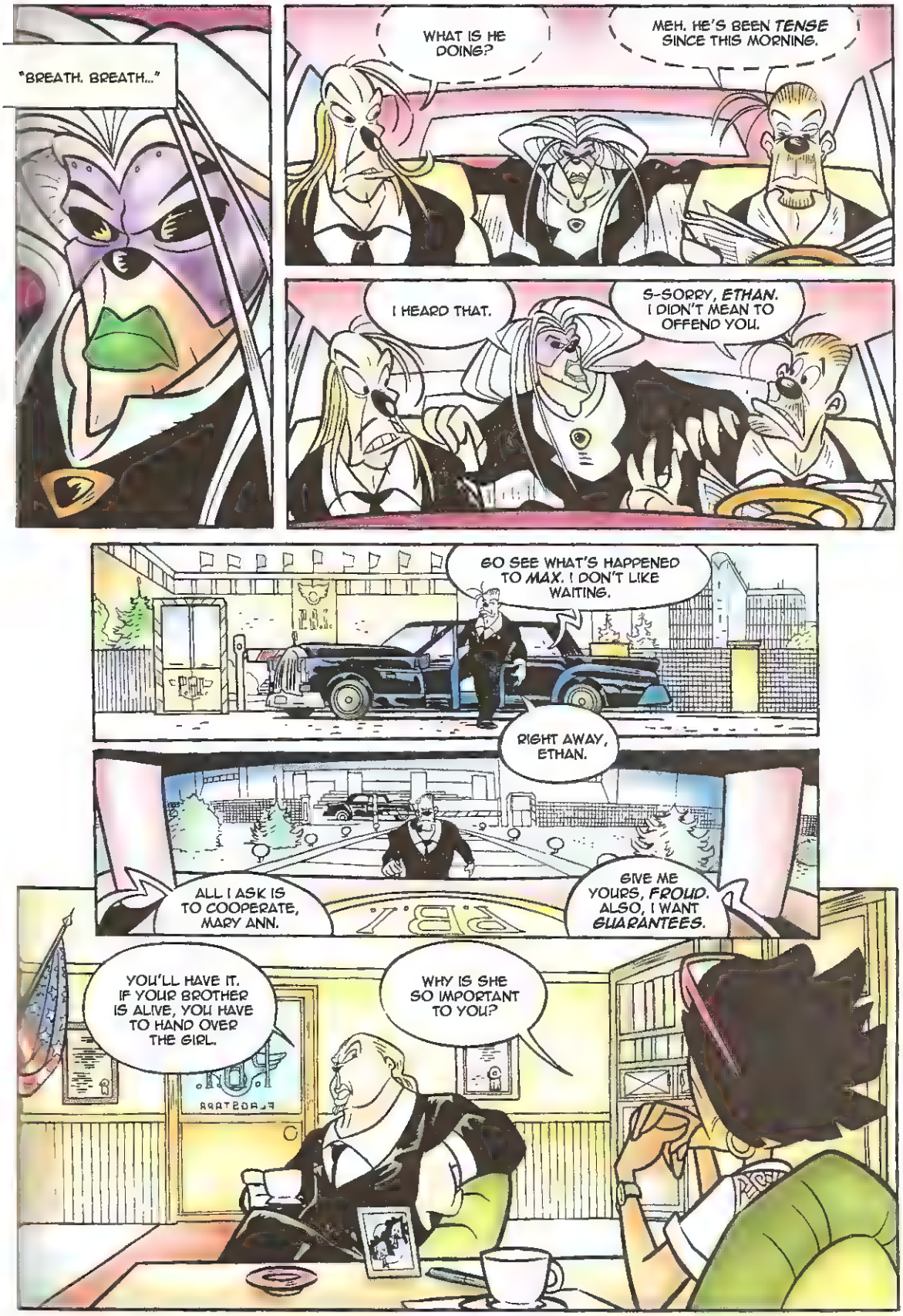

INCREDIBLE, LIEUTENANT. IT'S AS IF THE WHOLE WAREHOUSE HAD EXPLODED, ALTHOUGH THERE'S NO NOTICEABLE TRACES OF COMBUSTION.
SCIENTIFIC TECHNICIANS. THEY TALK A LOT, BUT THEY NEVER KNOW WHAT.
THIS AREA INTRIGUES US. IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PROTECTED BY SOME KIND OF BUBBLE, BY A FORCE FIELD OR WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE...
YOU MUST ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE A GREAT IMAGINATION.
AND ALSO A FAT PAYCHECK, UNFORTUNATELY. ANY NEWS?
THERE'S NO TRACE OF YOUR BROTHER. WE'RE STILL SEARCHING.
KEEP DOING SO. COMB THE AREA INCH BY INCH.
MAY WE JOIN THE SEARCH? WE TOO WANT TO FIND HIM.
?
WHO ARE YOU? WHY WERE YOU LET THROUGH?
MY NAME IS MAX FROUD. AS FOR THE SECOND QUESTION...
... HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE FACTORY?


WE'LL TALK LATER, IN PRIVATE. NOW I'M BUSY WITH MY FRIEND.
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT, MARY ANN. I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH.
GOOD. THEN A CHANGE OF AIR IS BETTER.
NUMBER THREE...
"... ACCOMPANY THE GENTLEMAN."
I GOT KICKED OUT. ME, AN HONORARY PBI AGENT. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, ONE?
FIRST OF ALL, THE TRUE HONORARY AGENT IS THE AVENGER. SECOND, YOU STILL PICKED UP SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION.
RRR
VRR
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE? WE HAVEN'T FOUND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FACTORY!
ABOUT THEM, NO. BUT THE AGENT WHO ACCOMPANIED YOU, YES.
SWISSSSS
I HAVE RE-DIGITALIZED THE IMAGES YOU RECORDED WITH YOUR WRIST CAMERA. LOOK.
HIS HAND IS WOUNDED. I HADN'T NOTICED.
OUR FRIEND KNOWS HOW TO HIDE THINGS WELL. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SHOULDN'T EVEN EXIST.
EH?

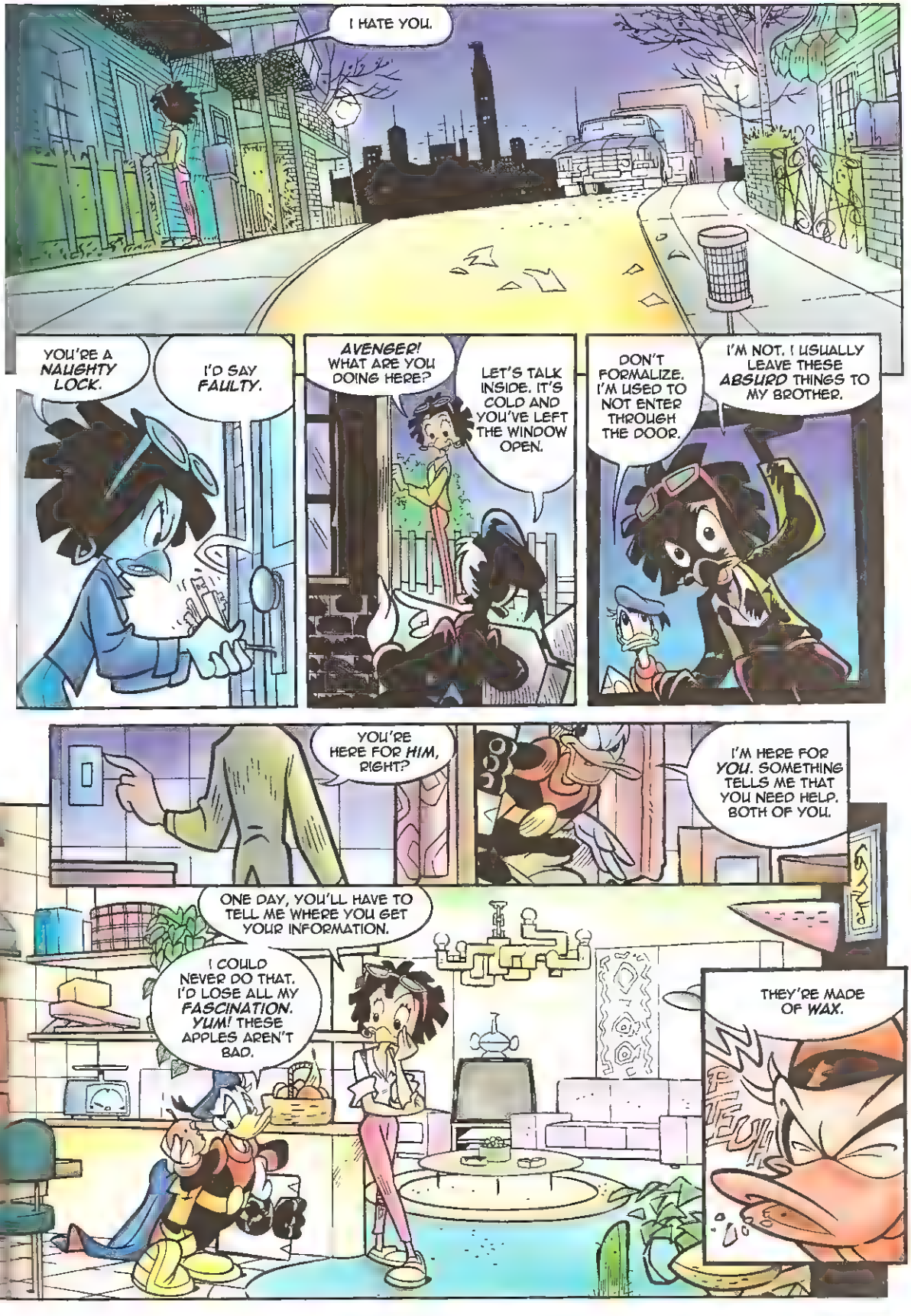

HE'S A PROFESSIONAL. OFFICIALLY DISAPPEARED DURING A GUERRILLA OPERATION. I CAN'T SAY WHERE OR AGAINST WHO.
I DON'T LIKE IT. WHAT DOES THIS *BAD EGG* HAVE TO DO WITH ZIGGY?
PERHAPS THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS IN THIS VIDEO RECORDING, TAKEN FROM A CAMERA AT THE AIRPORT.
LOOK CLOSELY AT THE UPPER RIGHT.
A GIRL. SHE LOOKS FRIGHTENED.
OUR NUMBER THREE IS CHASING HER.
SEEMS TO HAVE DESCENDED FROM THE FLIGHT COMING FROM ATHENS. WATCH THE REST OF THE RECORDING.
ZIGGY! WHAT'S HE DOING?
HE JUST DIVED INTO A SEA OF TROUBLE.
WE HAVE TO FIND HIM, BEFORE THIS *FROUD* OR ONE OF HIS FRIENDLY NUMBERED EMPLOYEES DO.

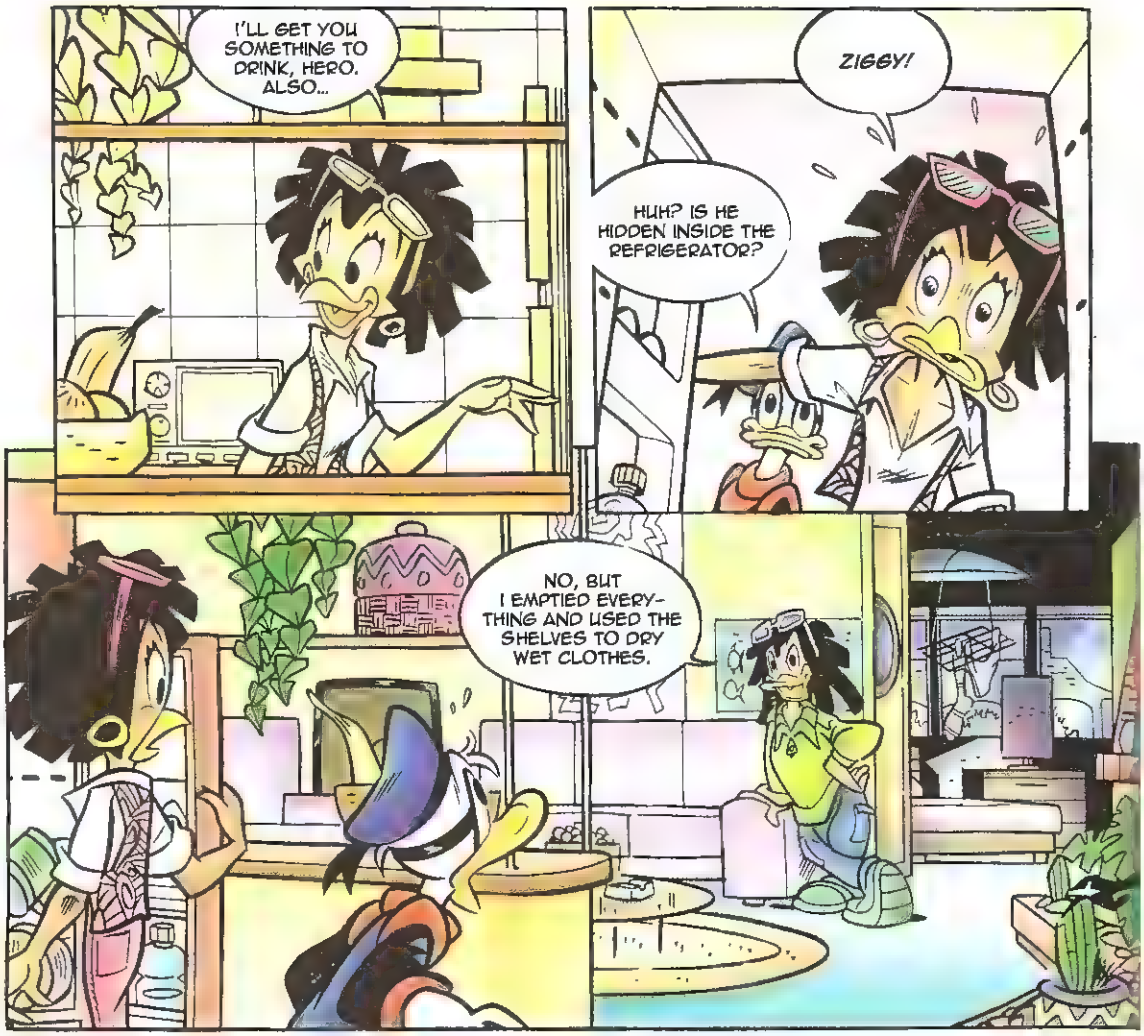
ZIGGY.
I AM. YOU HAD ME WORRIED. YOU TOOK A NASTY BLOW.
JANA. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HMM! THIS PLACE *RESEMBLES* MY HOME.
IN FACT, IT'S AN OPEN SPACE WITH A KITCHENETTE. ONLY THAT IT'S UNDER A BRIDGE.
I DREAMED THAT OBJECTS AND PEOPLE WERE FLYING...
THE BLOW WASN'T SO STRONG, THEN.
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
NO. I'VE ALREADY SEEN TOO MANY STRANGE THINGS IN LIFE.
I LEFT THE *PBI* BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW MORE.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SOMEONE WHO'S NOT INTERESTED IN ME.
I JUDGE PEOPLE MY WAY AND I NEVER SAID I WASN'T INTERESTED IN YOU.

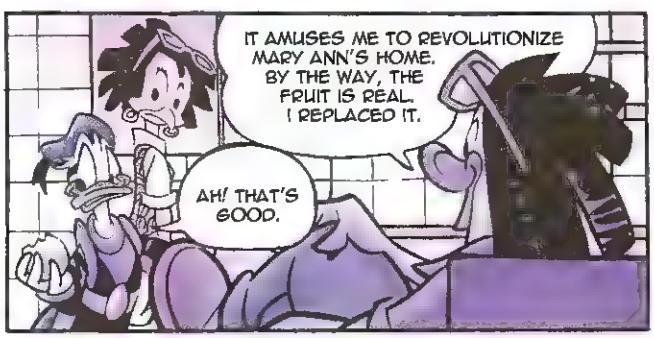

IN EXACTLY WHAT WAY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ME?
ARE YOU HUNGRY? I KNOW A PLACE WHERE THEY MAKE EXCELLENT DONUTS.
Gobo
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR FAULT IS, ZIGGY? YOU DON'T TAKE ANYTHING SERI...
SCIAFF
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU... YOU SOAKED ME!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR FAULT IS, JANA? YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
OH YEAH? TAKE THAT!
HA HA! OTHER FAULTS... YOUR AIM IS POOR!
"BREATH. BREATH. JOY. BREATH."


"BREATH. BREATH..."
WHAT IS HE DOING?
MEH. HE'S BEEN TENSE SINCE THIS MORNING.
I HEARD THAT.
S-SORRY, ETHAN. I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU.
GO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MAX. I DON'T LIKE WAITING.
RIGHT AWAY, ETHAN.
ALL I ASK IS TO COOPERATE, MARY ANN.
GIVE ME YOURS, FROUD. ALSO, I WANT GUARANTEES.
YOU'LL HAVE IT. IF YOUR BROTHER IS ALIVE, YOU HAVE TO HAND OVER THE GIRL.
WHY IS SHE SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?

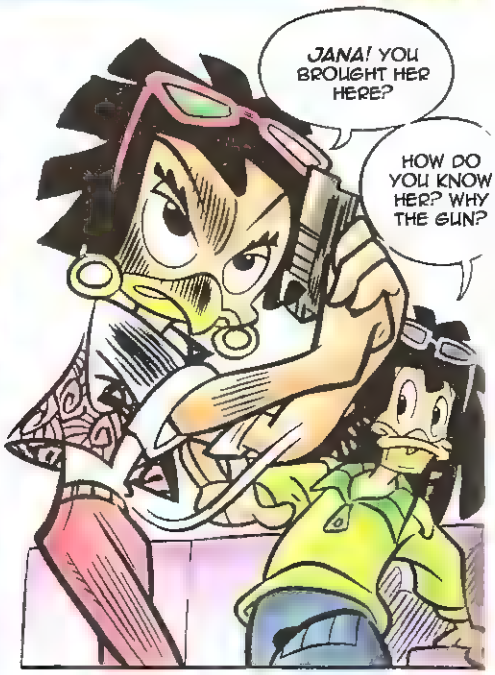
SHE'S AN EXPERIMENT WHO ESCAPED FROM OUR CONTROL. SHE'S VERY DANGEROUS.
THEN IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY. THE FACTORY CREATES... HOW TO PUT IT... MONSTERS?
WE SERVE THE COUNTRY, JUST LIKE YOU.
YEAH, ONLY THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO PUT PRESSURE ON YOUR LEADERS.
I SEE YOU GOT THE HINT. AT THE RIGHT TIME, CONTACT ME AT THIS NUMBER.
AND DON'T YOU FORGET THE PROMISE YOU MADE ME.
"RELAX. YOUR BROTHER WILL NOT BE HARMED."
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH. SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.
YEAH. I HEARD EVERYTHING.
AT THIS DISTANCE? THAT RESTRAINING HOOD... DOESN'T RESTRAIN.
THESE CHEAP TRICKS TO PREVENT MY HARMFUL POWERS ARE USELESS. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FIND JANA?
YOU'LL CARRY OUT MY ORDERS, AS USUAL. SO MUCH THE WORSE FOR HER AND HER BRAVE KNIGHT.


I HATE YOU.
YOU'RE A NAUGHTY LOCK.
I'D SAY FAULTY.
AVENGER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
LET'S TALK INSIDE. IT'S COLD AND YOU'VE LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN.
DON'T FORMALIZE. I'M USED TO NOT ENTER THROUGH THE DOOR.
I'M NOT. I USUALLY LEAVE THESE ABSURD THINGS TO MY BROTHER.
YOU'RE HERE FOR HIM, RIGHT?
I'M HERE FOR YOU. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT YOU NEED HELP. BOTH OF YOU.
ONE DAY, YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME WHERE YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION.
I COULD NEVER DO THAT. I'D LOSE ALL MY FASCINATION. YUM! THESE APPLES AREN'T BAD.
THEY'RE MADE OF WAX.


I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK, HERO. ALSO...
ZIGGY!
HUH? IS HE HIDDEN INSIDE THE REFRIGERATOR?
NO, BUT I EMPTIED EVERY-THING AND USED THE SHELVES TO DRY WET CLOTHES.


IT AMUSES ME TO REVOLUTIONIZE MARY ANN'S HOME. BY THE WAY, THE FRUIT IS REAL. I REPLACED IT.
AH! THAT'S GOOD.

WHY ARE YOU HERE? HALF THE CITY IS LOOKING FOR YOU.
ME AND A *FRIEND* OF MINE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO, AND SO...


JANA! YOU BROUGHT HER HERE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW HER? WHY THE GUN?

HERE I AM. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR SHOWER...
JANA, LET ME INTRODUCE THE DUCK AVENGER AND MY SISTER, MARY ANN.
TAKE IT EASY, ZIGGY. I'M SURE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO HURT ME.
SEEING AS YOU'RE USING MY BATHROBE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL TAKE SOME CLOTHES FROM THE CLOSET.
WHY ARE YOU TURNING OFF THE LIGHT?
CLIC
TO SAVE ELECTRICITY. STAY AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS.
YOU MADE A PREDICTABLE MOVE BY COMING HERE. I'M DEFINITELY *UNDER SURVEILLANCE*.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER?
ONE?
SEVEN MEN AROUND THE HOUSE. *EIGHT* IN THE VAN PARKED IN FRONT OF THE DRIVEWAY. *THREE* ON THE ROOF. *ALL* ARMED AND DANGEROUS. *VERY* DANGEROUS.
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS WITH INFRARED TARGETING SYSTEMS...
I GET IT, I'M GOING. BUT I'M TAKING THE *BASKET* WITH ME.

WHERE'S HE GOING NOW?
I ONLY HAVE A VAGUE IDEA. THAT DUCK AMAZES ME.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHO'S BEHIND THIS.
THE FACTORY. DOES THAT RING A BELL?
DRRR
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, IT'S A GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH ITS LEADERS?
I MET A CERTAIN FROUD. A NICE GUY, ONE OF THOSE WHO DON'T KEEP THEIR PROMISES.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHAT'S HAPPENING IS THAT YOUR FRIENDS ARE MANY AND WE HAVE FEW WEAPONS.
CLACK
CLANG
SPOK
WHO THROWS PISTOLS AND RIFLES DOWN THE CHIMNEY?
CAN'T BE SANTA CLAUS. HE WOULD AT LEAST HAVE PACKED THEM.

JANA, TAKE THIS SATELLITE TRANSMITTER.
WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?
IF OUR PATHS DIVIDE, SIMPLY KEEP IT TURNED ON. SO THAT WE CAN FIND YOU.
ON
OFF
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY TO GET OUT. SEE ANYTHING, ZIGGY?
SERIOUSLY? IT'S PITCH DARK OUT THERE. WE'D NEED NIGHT VISION GOGGLES.
HOW MANY APPLES DID YOU PUT IN THAT BASKET?
TWO OR THREE. AS WELL AS...

BANANA! WHO THROWS BANANA PEELS ON THE GROUND?
I DO.
SICK
AND LUCKY FOR YOU I DON'T LIKE COCONUTS.
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS, ONE?
THE EIGHT IN THE VAN ARE GOING INTO ACTION AT THIS MOMENT.

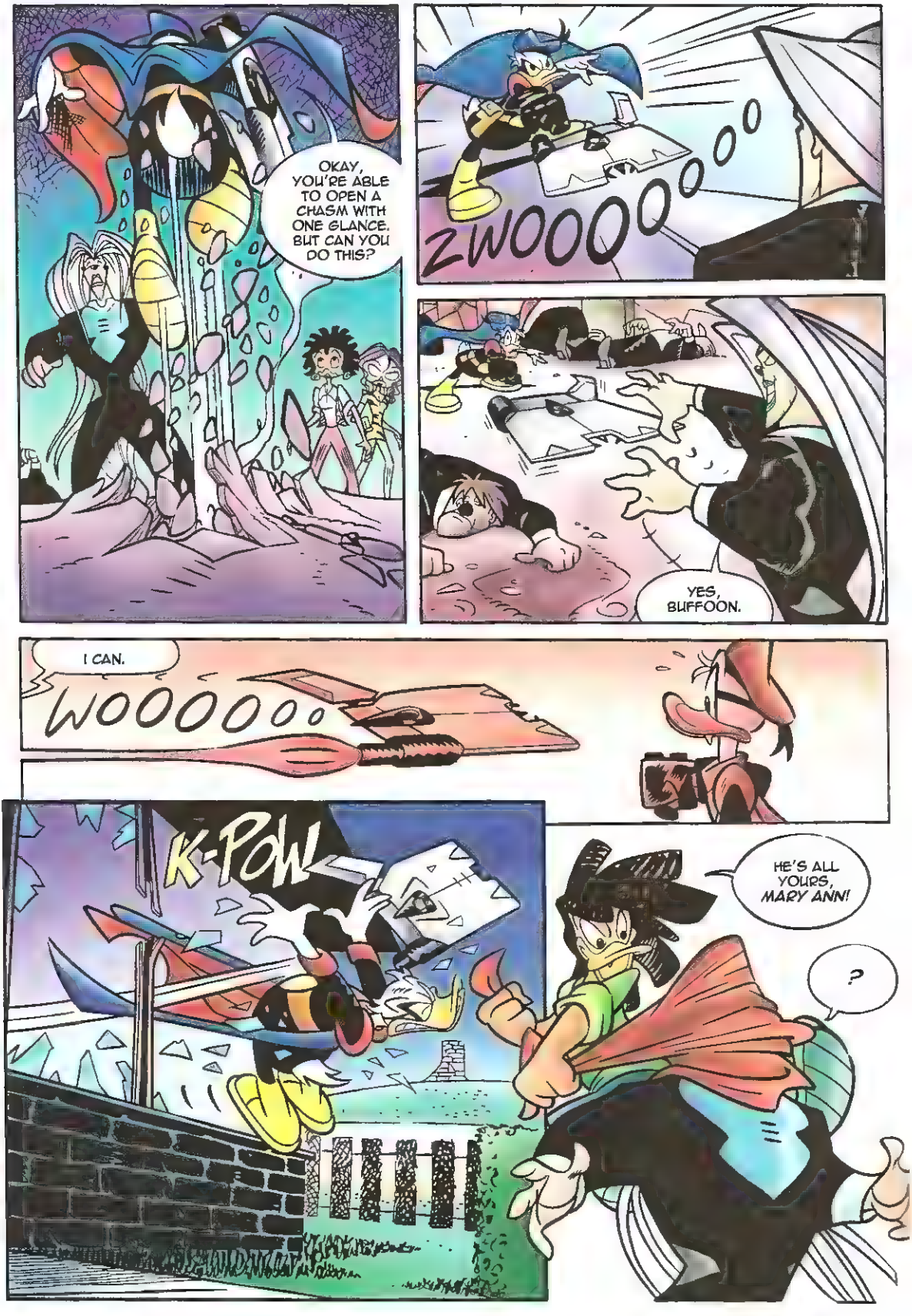
THEY'RE IN THE DRIVEWAY. BE READY TO COVER US WITH THE ARTILLERY, MARY ANN. WE'LL TRY TO GET OUT FROM THE BACK.
THE GUN IS JAMMED. I HAVE TO TURN ON THE LIGHT.
"BREATHE, JANA."
"BREATHE."
ETHAN!
MY NAME IS ZIGGY! HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN?
CLIC
GET DOWN! COVER YOUR EYES!
CRASH
POW
ZWIKI
NGG
BRANG

"YOU'RE BREATHLESS, JANA. TAKE A DEEP BREATH, ONCE AGAIN."
"I'VE FOLLOWED YOUR BREATHS FOR SO LONG..."
"... THAT I LEARNED TO FOLLOW THE RHYTHM, BREATHING ALONG WITH YOU."
"YOU AND I, A SINGLE BREATH."
"ISN'T IT ROMANTIC?"

YOU FOUND ME, ETHAN. LET THEM GO. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
YOU THINK THIS IS THE WAY TO WELCOME ME?
THEN I THINK I'LL DO THE HONORS.
POOR FOOL.
?
SHAM
TELEKINESIS!
WRONG ANSWER. THIS IS PURE MENTAL POWER!

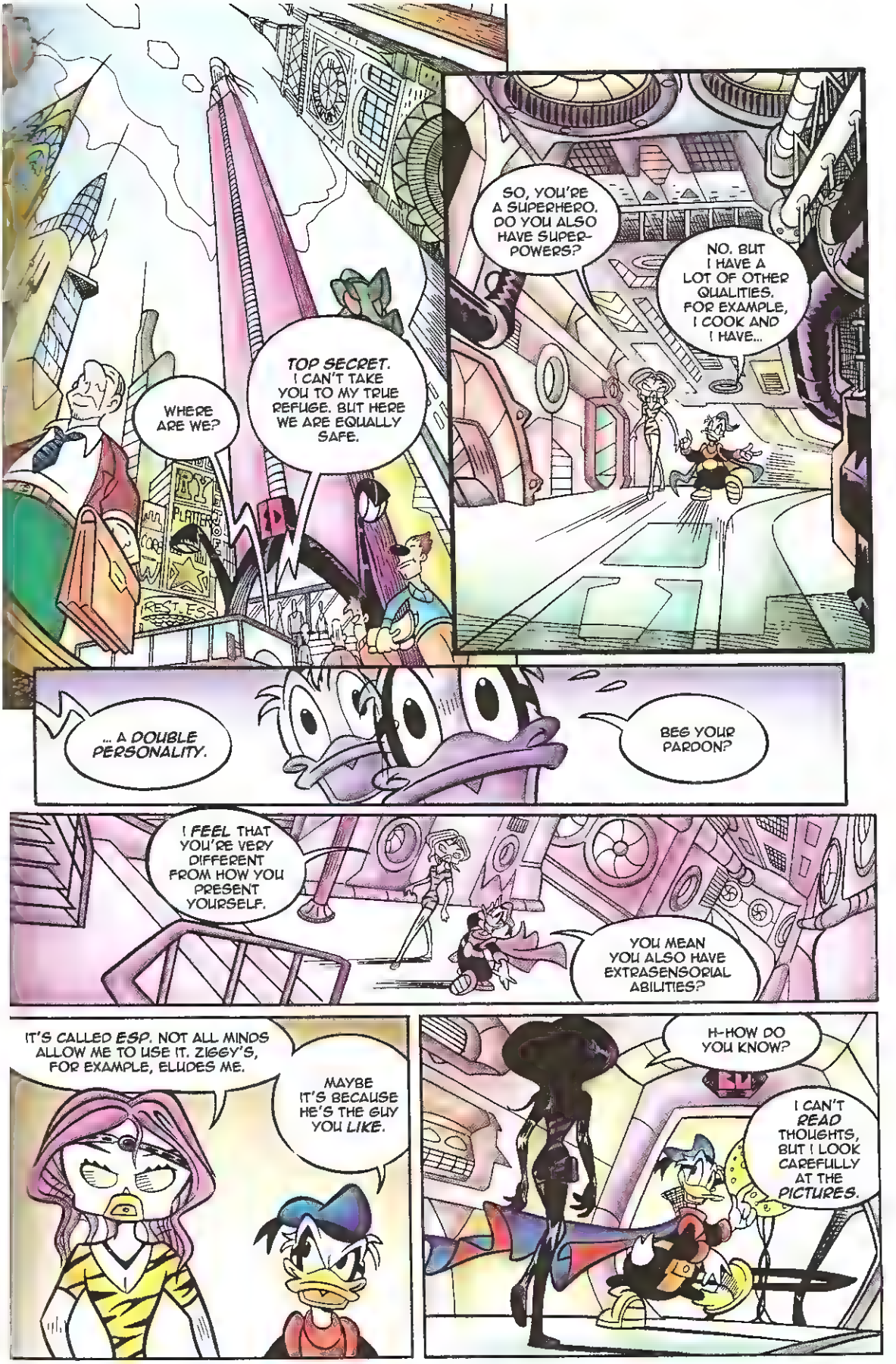
COFF...
HOWEVER, I HAVE A THOUGHT FOR YOU TOO.
I ALSO WANTED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF WITH A GIFT, BUT I ONLY HAD THE X-TRANSFORMER SHIELD.
STUD
URGH!
OOOF!
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL THANK YOU, AVENGER!
FIRE!
TATATATATATATATATAT
WIIIIIII
HEY! DON'T BE ANGRY. I BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR YOU TOO.

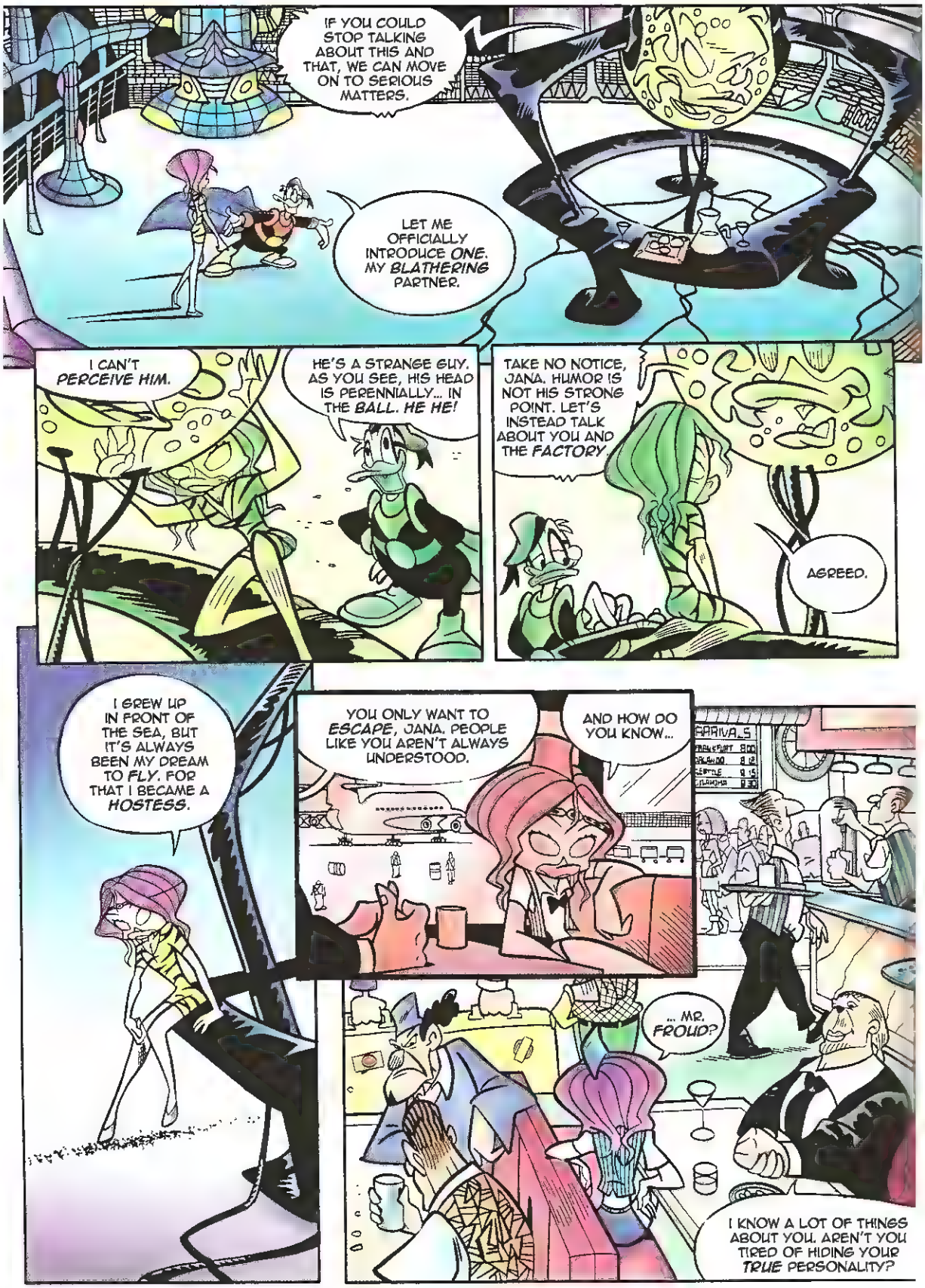
AAAH!
A GRAVITATIONAL COMMUTATOR, A PARALYZING RAY... TODAY I'M FELLING GENEROUS!
BLARP
FLEE, JANA! RUN WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
SOCK
AH!
OH! BUT TIME HAS EXPIRED, DEAR.
YOU AGAIN? SO THAT'S HOW GIRLS RUN AWAY!
CONSERVE YOUR SARCASM, DUCK. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL...
... IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH.

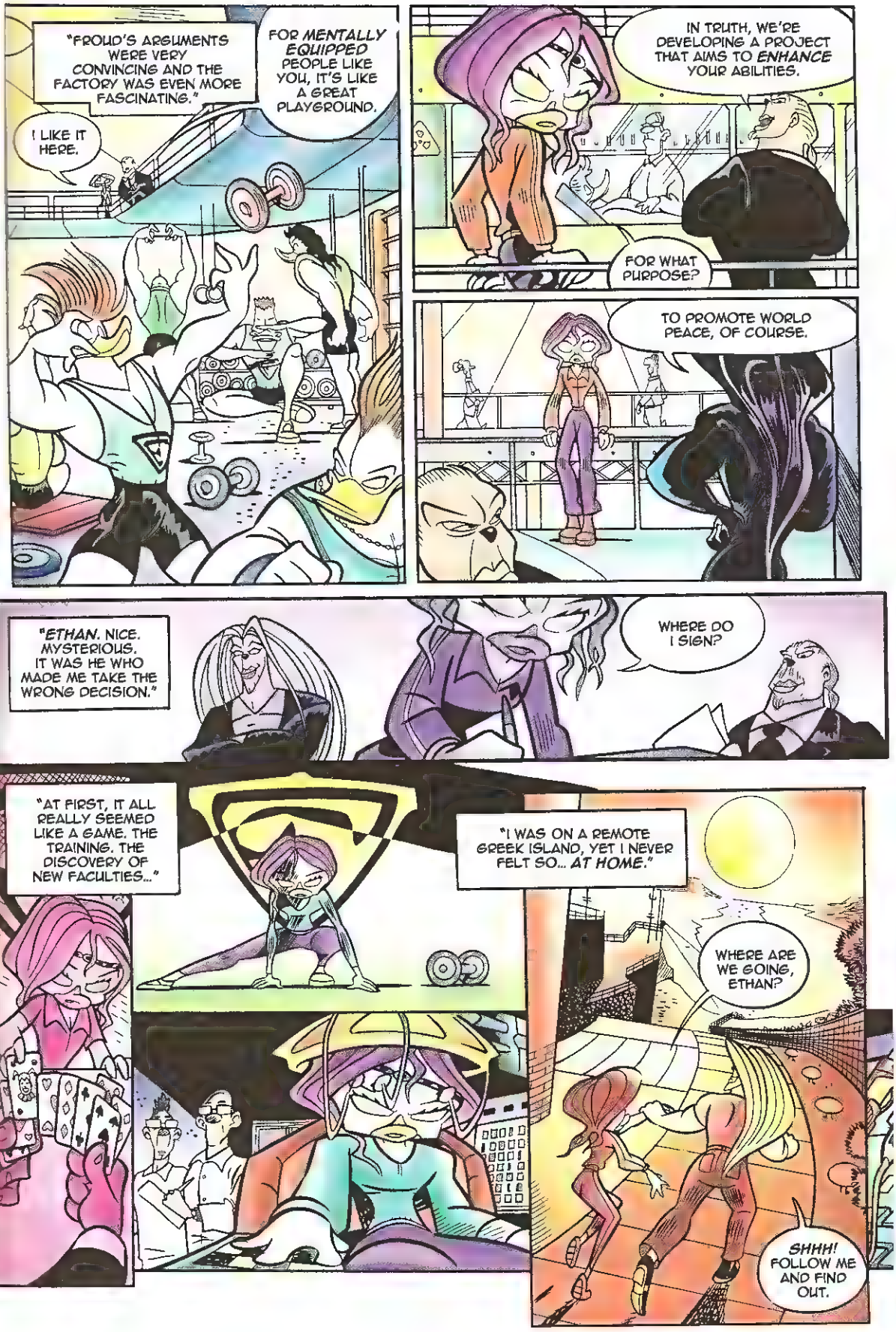

OKAY, YOU'RE ABLE TO OPEN A CHASM WITH ONE GLANCE. BUT CAN YOU DO THIS?
ZWOOOOOOO
YES, BUFFOON.
I CAN.
WOOOOOO
K-POW
HE'S ALL YOURS, MARY ANN!
?

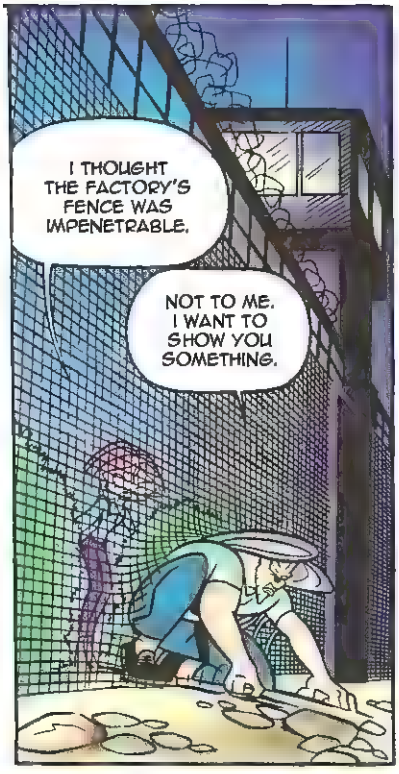
WACK
TAKE JANA WITH YOU, DUCK AVENGER!
IS IT THE SAME IF SHE TAKES ME WITH HER?
COME ON, HERO. YOU BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.
BUT WHERE DID YOUR PROVERBIAL CAVALRY GO?
IN MY HEAD, ONE. RIGHT NOW, I FEEL DIFFERENT HORSES GALLOPING.
FSSSS
AH!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
URGH!
JANA!
WOOOOSH
JANAAA!

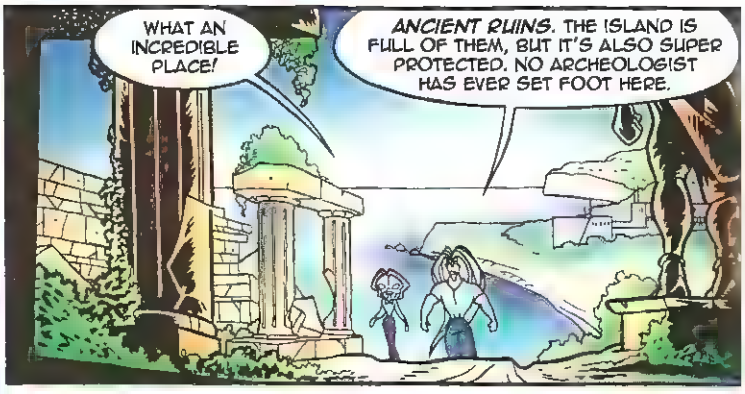
I'VE LOST HER, ONCE AGAIN.
AAARGH!
AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
LET THEM GO, ETHAN. WE NEED THEM.
NOT NOW.
THAT'S NOT A REQUEST. IT'S AN ORDER.
AH!
COFF! COFF!
TUM
THERE'LL BE A DAY WHEN YOU CAN'T GIVE ME MORE ORDERS, MAX FROUD.


WHERE ARE WE?
TOP SECRET. I CAN'T TAKE YOU TO MY TRUE REFUGE. BUT HERE WE ARE EQUALLY SAFE.
SO, YOU'RE A SUPERHERO. DO YOU ALSO HAVE SUPER-POWERS?
NO. BUT I HAVE A LOT OF OTHER QUALITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, I COOK AND I HAVE...
... A DOUBLE PERSONALITY.
BEG YOUR PARDON?
I FEEL THAT YOU'RE VERY DIFFERENT FROM HOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF.
YOU MEAN YOU ALSO HAVE EXTRASENSORIAL ABILITIES?
IT'S CALLED ESP. NOT ALL MINDS ALLOW ME TO USE IT. ZIGGY'S, FOR EXAMPLE, ELUDES ME.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S THE GUY YOU LIKE.
H-HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I CAN'T READ THOUGHTS, BUT I LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE PICTURES.

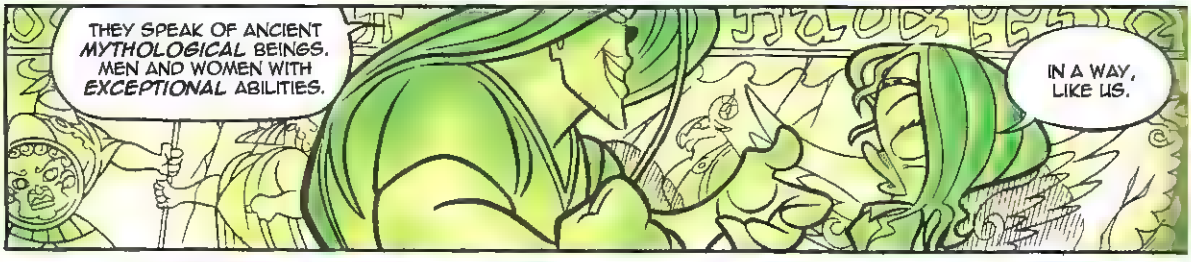

IF YOU COULD STOP TALKING ABOUT THIS AND THAT, WE CAN MOVE ON TO SERIOUS MATTERS.
LET ME OFFICIALLY INTRODUCE ONE. MY BLATHERING PARTNER.
I CAN'T PERCEIVE HIM.
HE'S A STRANGE GUY. AS YOU SEE, HIS HEAD IS PERENNIALLY... IN THE BALL. HE HE!
TAKE NO NOTICE, JANA. HUMOR IS NOT HIS STRONG POINT. LET'S INSTEAD TALK ABOUT YOU AND THE FACTORY.
AGREED.
I GREW UP IN FRONT OF THE SEA, BUT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM TO FLY. FOR THAT I BECAME A HOSTESS.
YOU ONLY WANT TO ESCAPE, JANA. PEOPLE LIKE YOU AREN'T ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD.
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW...
... MR. FROLID?
I KNOW A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT YOU. AREN'T YOU TIRED OF HIDING YOUR TRUE PERSONALITY?

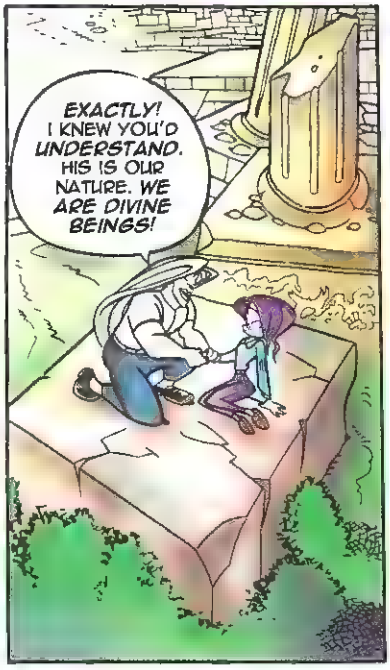

"FROUD'S ARGUMENTS WERE VERY CONVINCING AND THE FACTORY WAS EVEN MORE FASCINATING."
FOR MENTALLY EQUIPPED PEOPLE LIKE YOU, IT'S LIKE A GREAT PLAYGROUND.
I LIKE IT HERE.
IN TRUTH, WE'RE DEVELOPING A PROJECT THAT AIMS TO ENHANCE YOUR ABILITIES.
FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE, OF COURSE.
"ETHAN. NICE. MYSTERIOUS. IT WAS HE WHO MADE ME TAKE THE WRONG DECISION."
WHERE DO I SIGN?
"AT FIRST, IT ALL REALLY SEEMED LIKE A GAME. THE TRAINING. THE DISCOVERY OF NEW FACULTIES..."
"I WAS ON A REMOTE GREEK ISLAND, YET I NEVER FELT SO... AT HOME."
WHERE ARE WE GOING, ETHAN?
SHHH! FOLLOW ME AND FIND OUT.

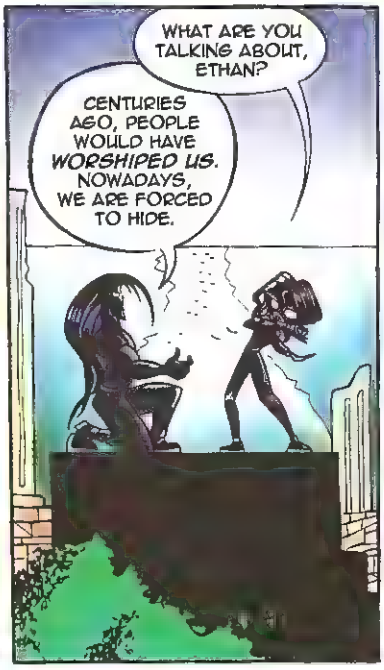

I THOUGHT THE FACTORY'S FENCE WAS IMPENETRABLE.
NOT TO ME. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.


WHAT AN INCREDIBLE PLACE!
ANCIENT RUINS. THE ISLAND IS FULL OF THEM, BUT IT'S ALSO SUPER PROTECTED. NO ARCHEOLOGIST HAS EVER SET FOOT HERE.

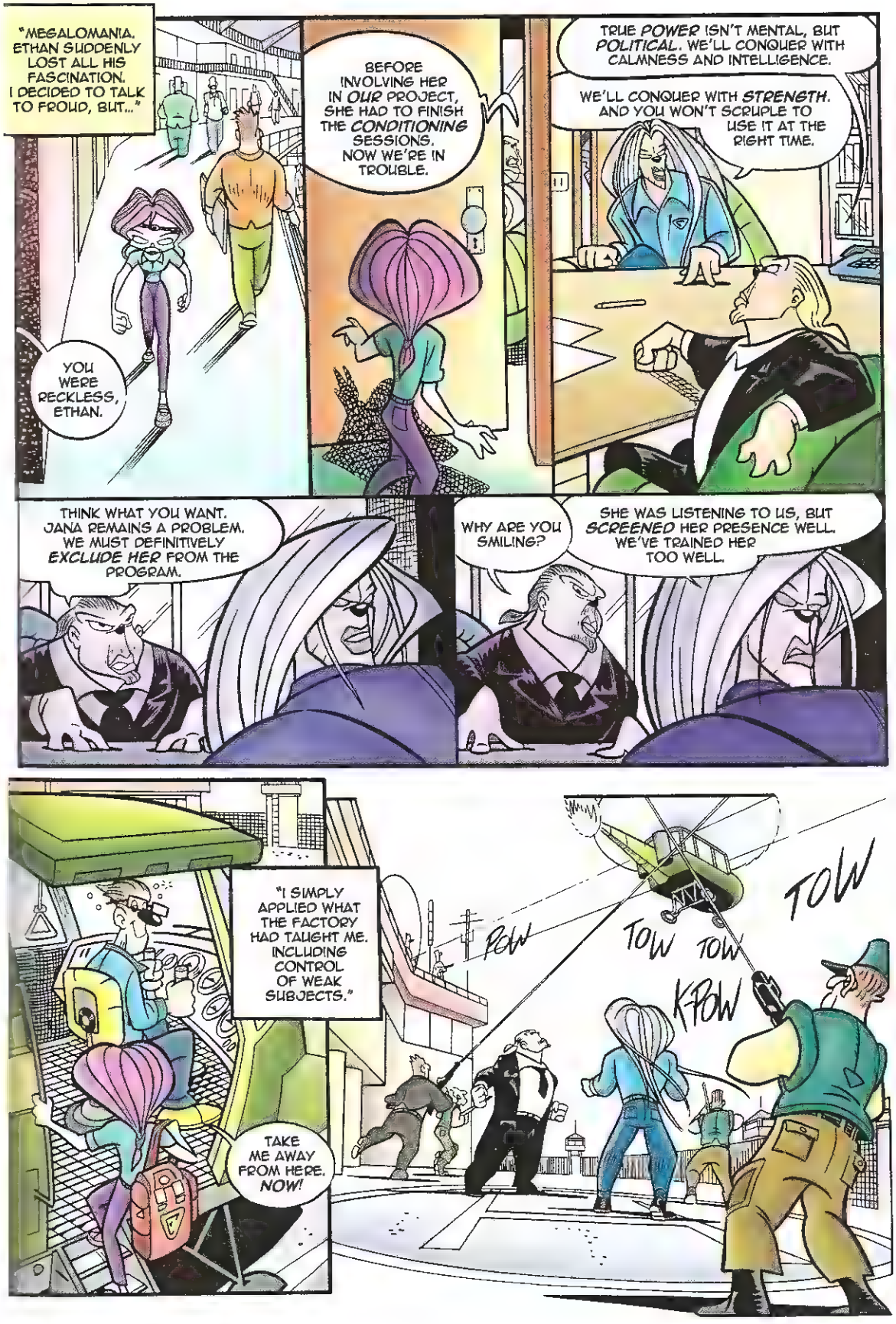
THESE CARVINGS ARE SPLENDID.
DON'T STOP AT THE OUTER APPEARANCE. READ THEM, AS IF IT WERE AN OPEN MIND.

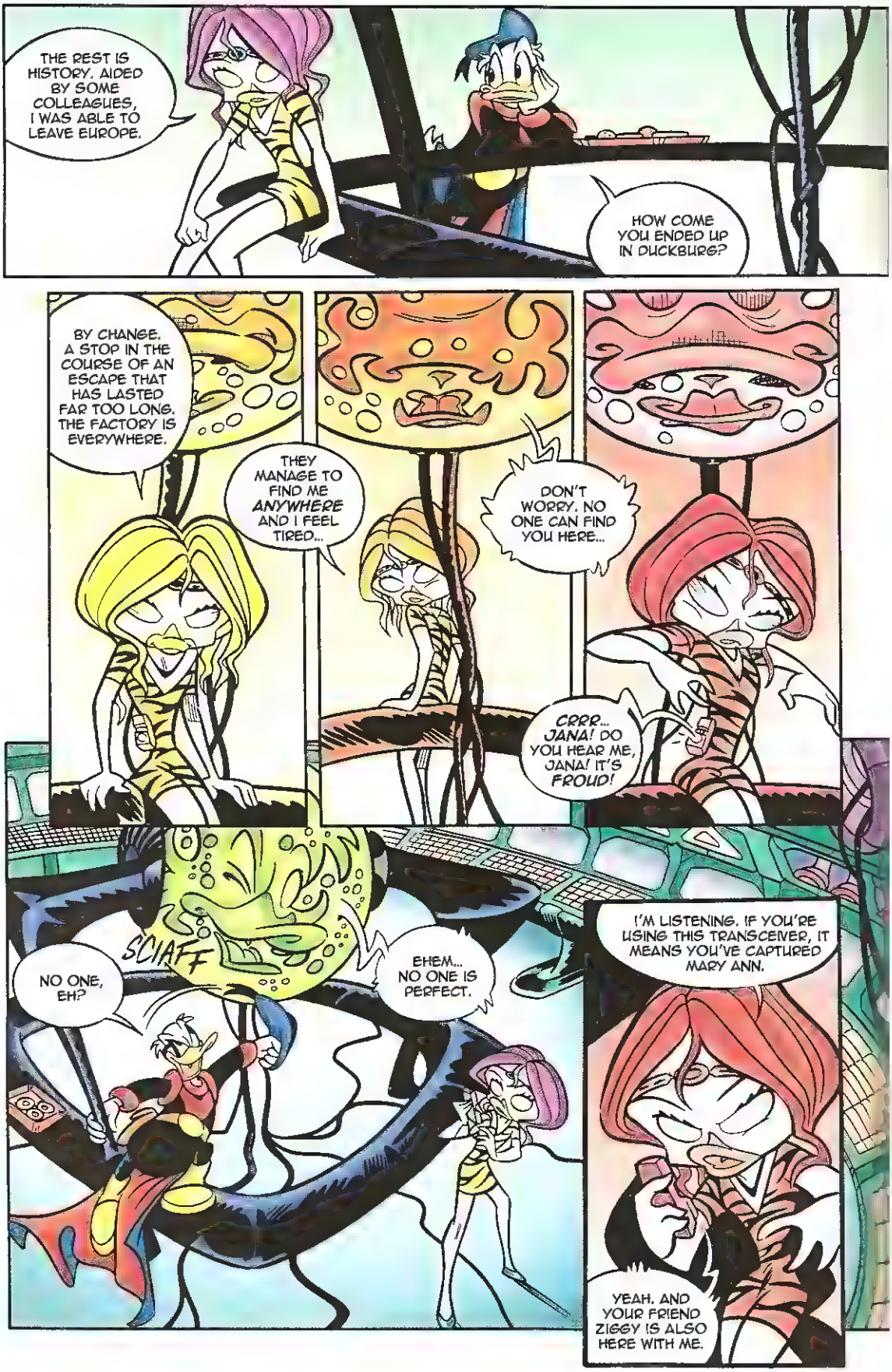

THEY SPEAK OF ANCIENT *MYTHOLOGICAL* BEINGS. MEN AND WOMEN WITH *EXCEPTIONAL* ABILITIES.
IN A WAY, LIKE US.


EXACTLY! I KNEW YOU'D *UNDERSTAND*. HIS IS OUR NATURE. *WE ARE DIVINE BEINGS!*

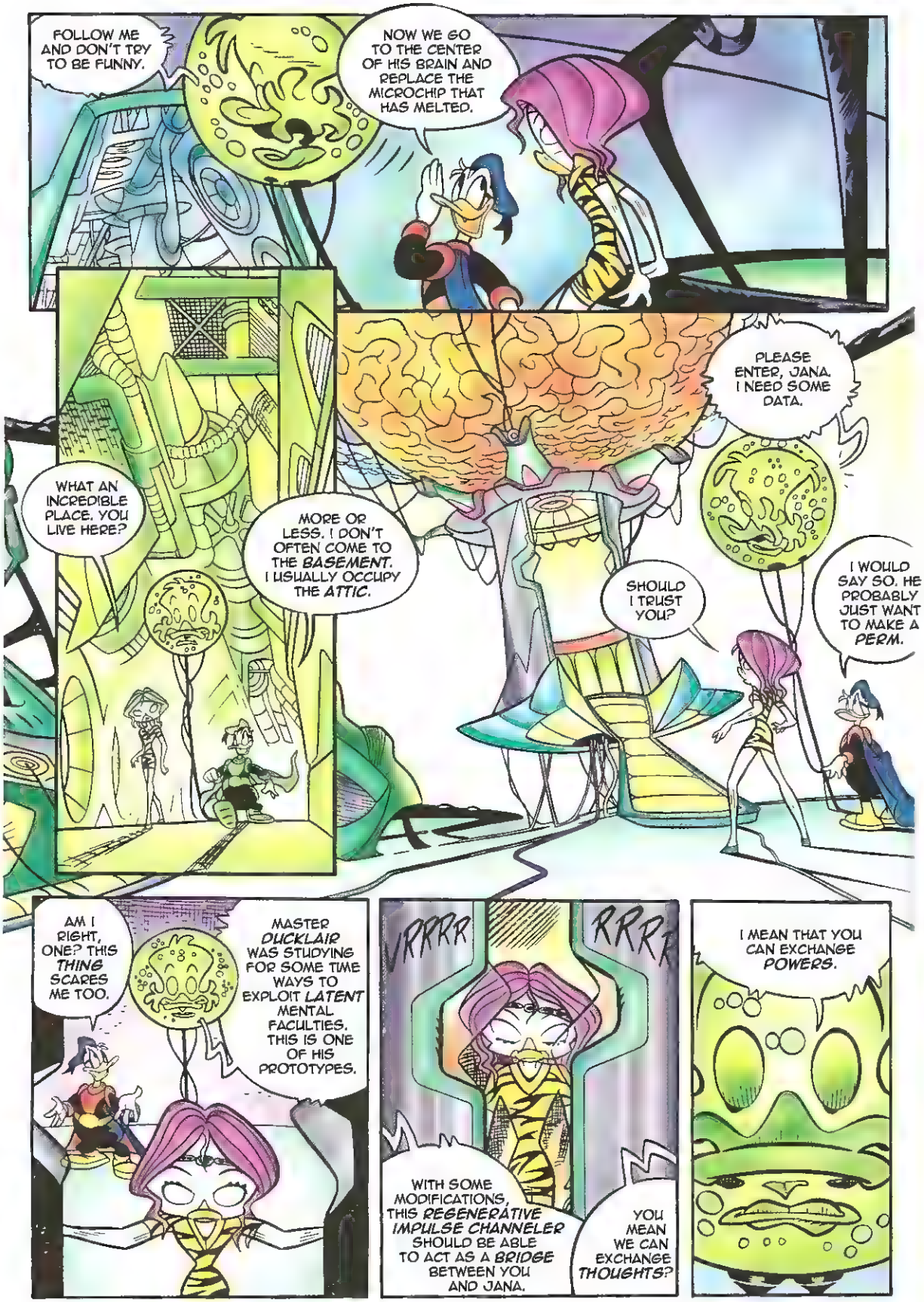

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ETHAN?
CENTURIES AGO, PEOPLE WOULD HAVE *WORSHIPED US*. NOWADAYS, WE ARE FORCED TO HIDE.

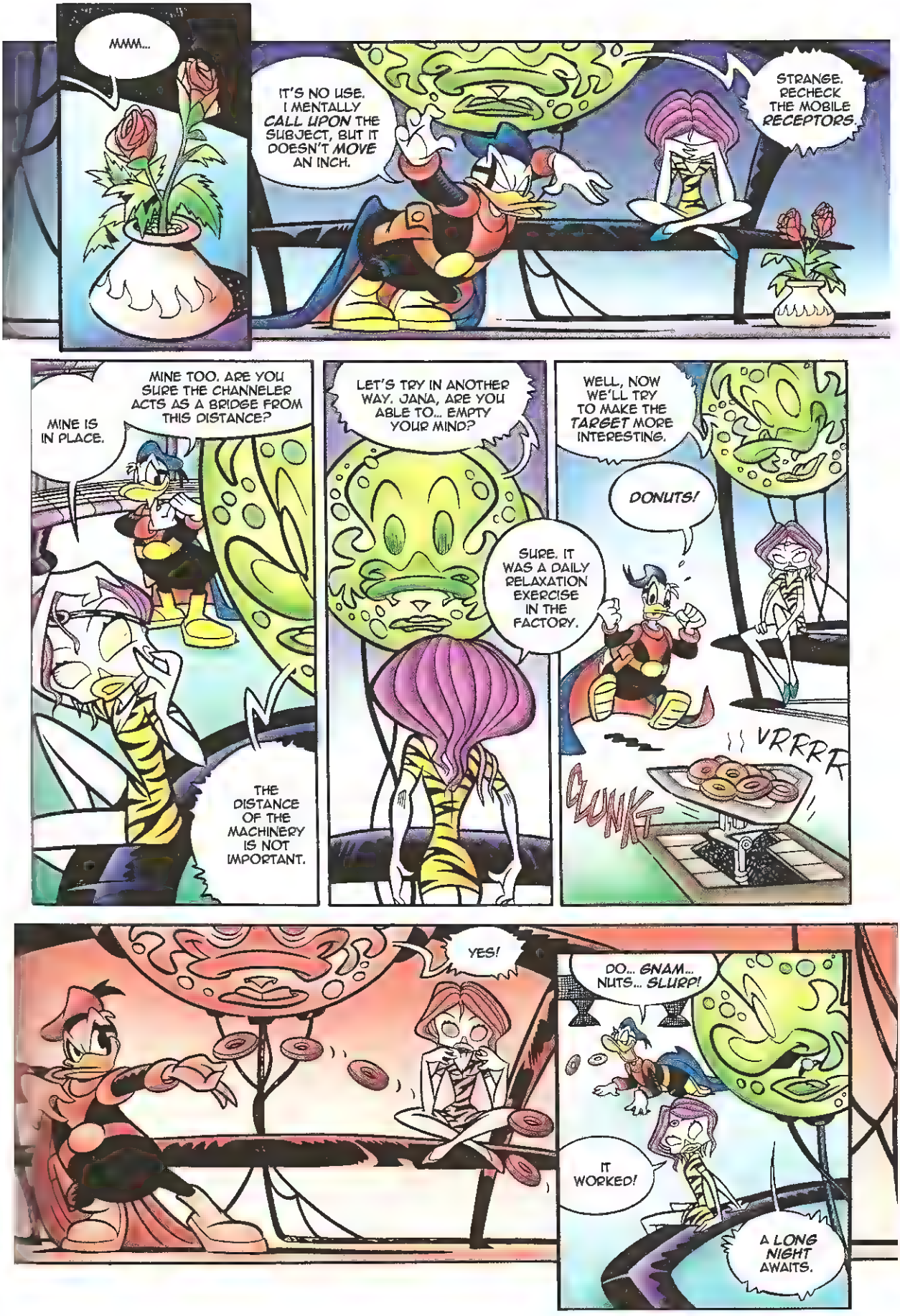
LET US JOIN FORCES, JANA. WE'LL TAKE BACK WHAT'S BEEN REMOVED AND *CRUSH* ANYONE TRYING TO STOP US.


"MEGALOMANIA. ETHAN SUDDENLY LOST ALL HIS FASCINATION. I DECIDED TO TALK TO FROLD, BUT..."
YOU WERE RECKLESS, ETHAN.
BEFORE INVOLVING HER IN OUR PROJECT, SHE HAD TO FINISH THE CONDITIONING SESSIONS. NOW WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
TRUE POWER ISN'T MENTAL, BUT POLITICAL. WE'LL CONQUER WITH CALMNESS AND INTELLIGENCE.
WE'LL CONQUER WITH STRENGTH. AND YOU WON'T SCRUPLE TO USE IT AT THE RIGHT TIME.
THINK WHAT YOU WANT. JANA REMAINS A PROBLEM. WE MUST DEFINITIVELY EXCLUDE HER FROM THE PROGRAM.
WHY ARE YOU SMILING?
SHE WAS LISTENING TO US, BUT SCREENED HER PRESENCE WELL. WE'VE TRAINED HER TOO WELL.
"I SIMPLY APPLIED WHAT THE FACTORY HAD TAUGHT ME. INCLUDING CONTROL OF WEAK SUBJECTS."
TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE. NOW!
POW
TOW
TOW
TOW
KPOW

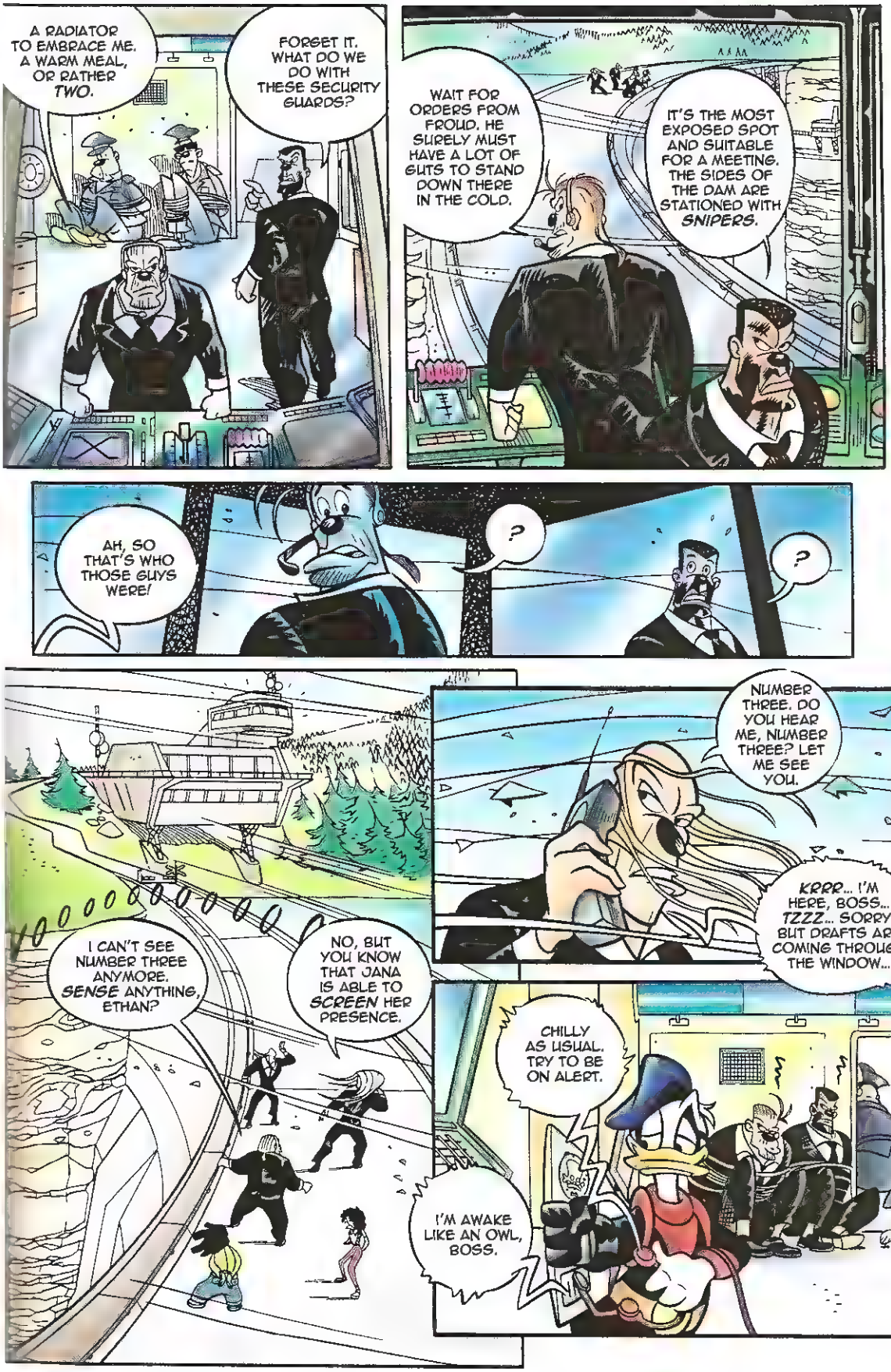

THE REST IS HISTORY. AIDED BY SOME COLLEAGUES, I WAS ABLE TO LEAVE EUROPE.
HOW COME YOU ENDED UP IN DUCKBURG?
BY CHANCE. A STOP IN THE COURSE OF AN ESCAPE THAT HAS LASTED FAR TOO LONG. THE FACTORY IS EVERYWHERE.
THEY MANAGE TO FIND ME ANYWHERE AND I FEEL TIRED...
DON'T WORRY. NO ONE CAN FIND YOU HERE...
CRRR... JANA! DO YOU HEAR ME, JANA! IT'S FROUD!
I'M LISTENING. IF YOU'RE USING THIS TRANSCEIVER, IT MEANS YOU'VE CAPTURED MARY ANN.
YEAH. AND YOUR FRIEND ZIGGY IS ALSO HERE WITH ME.
SCIAFF
NO ONE, EH?
EHEM... NO ONE IS PERFECT.

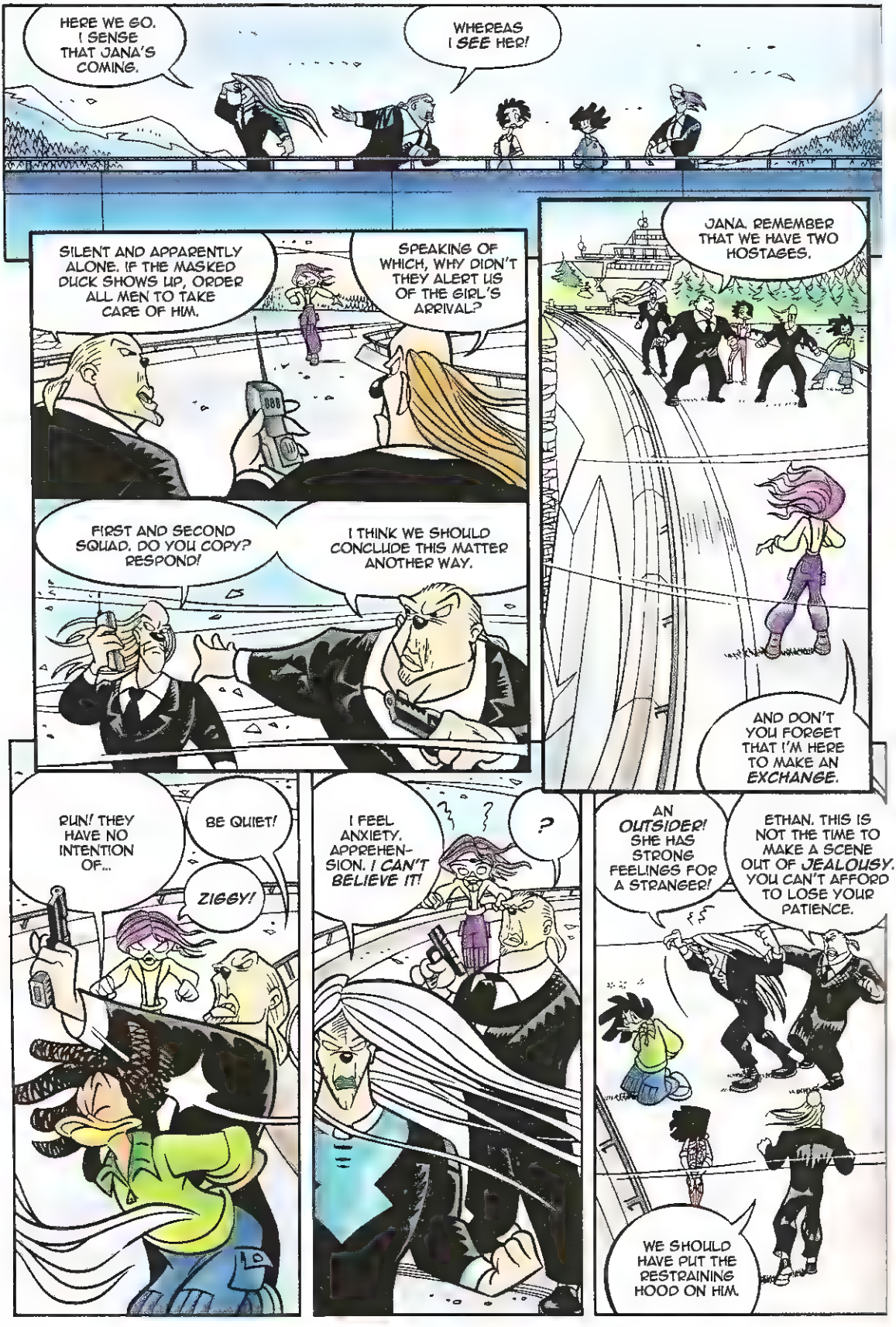
YOU'VE ARRIVED AT THE LAST STOP, JANA, AND YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THE TICKET. MEET ME AT DAWN AT THE CRYWATER DAM.
NICE PLACE. I LIKE EXCURSIONS.
NOT EVEN YOU CAN HELP ME, DUCK AVENGER. ETHAN IS TOO POWERFUL.
BUT, IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, YOU'RE NO EXCEPTION.
YEAH. WHY DIDN'T YOU FACE HIM WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?
YET YOUR FRIEND DIDN'T HESITATE TO THROW YOU HERE AND THERE.
ETHAN IS FROUD'S WARD. HE PROBABLY HASN'T UNDERGONE THE SAME TREATMENT AS ME.
FORCED INHIBITION. SOME SORT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOCK OF SECURITY. I CAN'T HIT ANOTHER STUDENT OF THE FACTORY.
INGENIOUS. SO YOU AVOID DISCUSSIONS FROM DESTRUCTIVE IMPLICATIONS.
THEN GO AROUND THE OBSTACLE. WE THINK YOU CAN STOP HIM WITH THE POWER OF THOUGHT.
DO YOU HAVE A SCREWDRIVER? I NEED TO DEACTIVATE HIM FOR A WHILE AND FIND THE FAILURE.


FOLLOW ME AND DON'T TRY TO BE FUNNY.
NOW WE GO TO THE CENTER OF HIS BRAIN AND REPLACE THE MICROCHIP THAT HAS MELTED.
PLEASE ENTER, JANA. I NEED SOME DATA.
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE PLACE. YOU LIVE HERE?
MORE OR LESS. I DON'T OFTEN COME TO THE BASEMENT. I USUALLY OCCUPY THE ATTIC.
SHOULD I TRUST YOU?
I WOULD SAY SO. HE PROBABLY JUST WANT TO MAKE A PERM.
AM I RIGHT, ONE? THIS THING SCARES ME TOO.
MASTER DUCKLAIR WAS STUDYING FOR SOME TIME WAYS TO EXPLOIT LATENT MENTAL FACULTIES. THIS IS ONE OF HIS PROTOTYPES.
VRRRR
RRRR
WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS, THIS REGENERATIVE IMPULSE CHANNELER SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN YOU AND JANA.
YOU MEAN WE CAN EXCHANGE THOUGHTS?
I MEAN THAT YOU CAN EXCHANGE POWERS.


MMM...
IT'S NO USE. I MENTALLY CALL UPON THE SUBJECT, BUT IT DOESN'T MOVE AN INCH.
STRANGE. RECHECK THE MOBILE RECEPTORS.
MINE IS IN PLACE.
MINE TOO. ARE YOU SURE THE CHANNELER ACTS AS A BRIDGE FROM THIS DISTANCE?
THE DISTANCE OF THE MACHINERY IS NOT IMPORTANT.
LET'S TRY IN ANOTHER WAY. JANA, ARE YOU ABLE TO... EMPTY YOUR MIND?
SURE. IT WAS A DAILY RELAXATION EXERCISE IN THE FACTORY.
WELL, NOW WE'LL TRY TO MAKE THE TARGET MORE INTERESTING.
DONUTS!
VRRRR
CLUNK!
YES!
DO... GNAM... NUTS... SLURP!
IT WORKED!
A LONG NIGHT AWAITS.

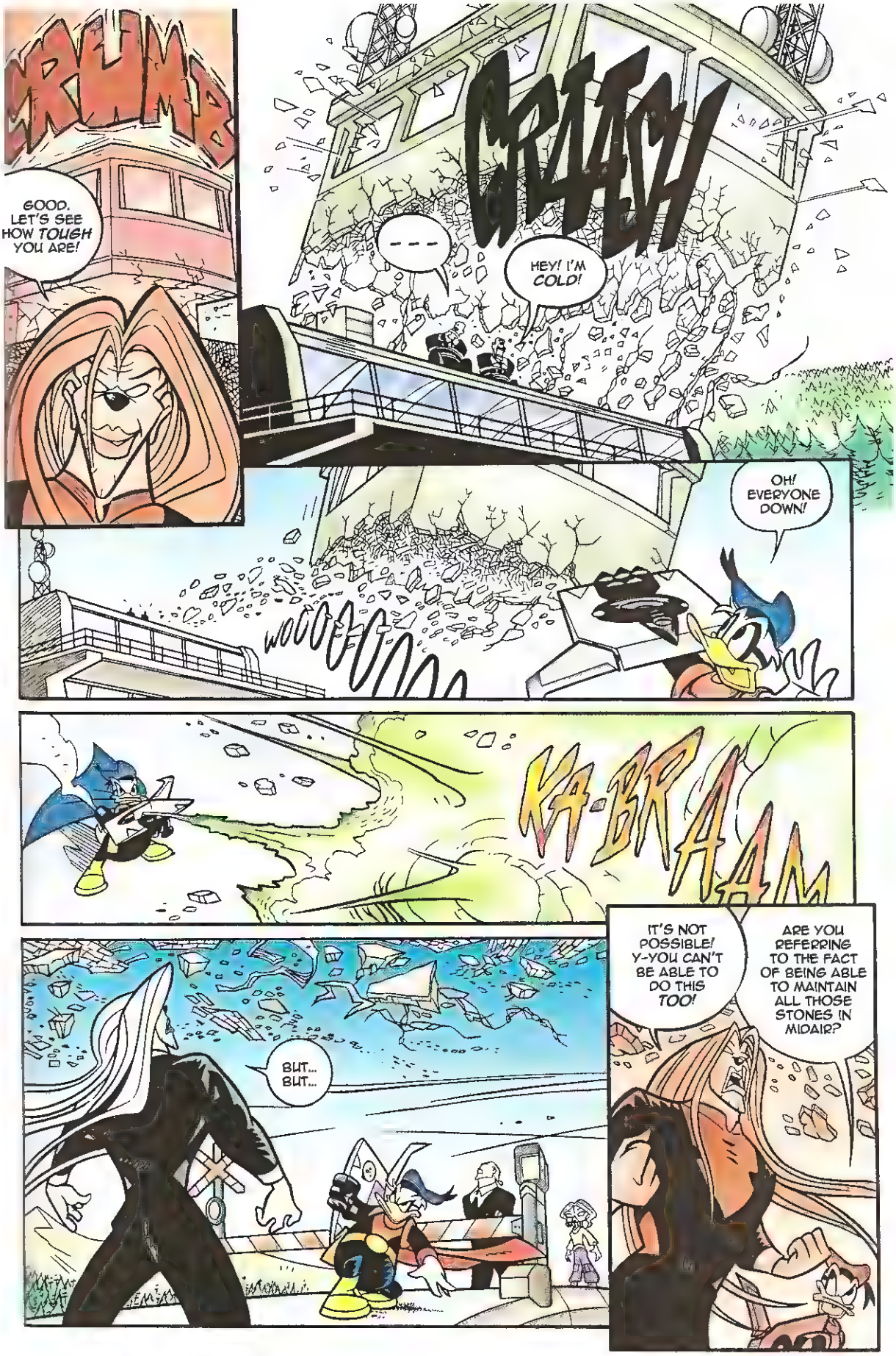
"I KNOW IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, JANA, BUT YOU MUST TEACH THE DUCK AVENGER EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT USING YOUR POWERS."
STONK
"HE CAN'T LEARN WHAT YOU'VE ASSIMILATED IN MONTHS OF TRAINING, SO YOU HAVE TO TEACH HIM SOME TRICKS..."
"... BUT, ABOVE ALL, YOU'LL NEED PLENTY OF PATIENCE. MY PARTNER LEARNS FAST, BUT OFTEN GETS OUT OF HAND."
"WHATEVER HAPPENS TOMORROW, YOU MUST REMAIN CONCENTRATED. THE TRUE BATTLE WILL OCCUR BETWEEN YOUR MIND AND ETHAN'S.
"ONE LAST TIP, PUT ON THE WOOLEN SWEATER."
BRRR! IT'S FREEZING HERE. YOU COULDN'T CHOOSE A PLACE AT A LOWER ALTITUDE? POSSIBLY NOT FAR AWAY FROM THE CITY. I HATE THE COUNTRYSIDE.
YOU'RE A DRAG, NUMBER THREE. LOOK AT THAT VIEW. DUCKBURG'S THERE DOWN THE VALLEY... WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?


A RADIATOR TO EMBRACE ME. A WARM MEAL, OR RATHER *TWO*.
FORGET IT. WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE SECURITY GUARDS?
WAIT FOR ORDERS FROM FROUD. HE SURELY MUST HAVE A LOT OF GUTS TO STAND DOWN THERE IN THE COLD.
IT'S THE MOST EXPOSED SPOT AND SUITABLE FOR A MEETING. THE SIDES OF THE DAM ARE STATIONED WITH *SNIPERS*.
AH, SO THAT'S WHO THOSE GUYS WERE!
?
?
NUMBER THREE. DO YOU HEAR ME, NUMBER THREE? LET ME SEE YOU.
KRRR... I'M HERE, BOSS... TZZZ... SORRY, BUT DRAFTS ARE COMING THROUGH THE WINDOW...
I CAN'T SEE NUMBER THREE ANYMORE. *SENSE* ANYTHING, ETHAN?
NO, BUT YOU KNOW THAT JANA IS ABLE TO *SCREEN* HER PRESENCE.
CHILLY AS USUAL. TRY TO BE ON ALERT.
I'M AWAKE LIKE AN OWL, BOSS.


HERE WE GO. I SENSE THAT JANA'S COMING.
WHEREAS I SEE HER!
SILENT AND APPARENTLY ALONE. IF THE MASKED DUCK SHOWS UP, ORDER ALL MEN TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY DIDN'T THEY ALERT US OF THE GIRL'S ARRIVAL?
JANA, REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE TWO HOSTAGES.
FIRST AND SECOND SQUAD, DO YOU COPY? RESPOND!
I THINK WE SHOULD CONCLUDE THIS MATTER ANOTHER WAY.
AND DON'T YOU FORGET THAT I'M HERE TO MAKE AN EXCHANGE.
RUN! THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF...
BE QUIET!
ZIGGY!
I FEEL ANXIETY. APPREHENSION. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
?
AN OUTSIDER! SHE HAS STRONG FEELINGS FOR A STRANGER!
ETHAN. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO MAKE A SCENE OUT OF JEALOUSY. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE YOUR PATIENCE.
WE SHOULD HAVE PUT THE RESTRAINING HOOD ON HIM.

RESTRAIN THIS, IF YOU CAN!
AAAH!
ETHAN! HE'S ONE OF OURS!
ONE OF YOURS. I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
JANA! SHE'S LIKE ME! WE'RE MADE FOR EACH OTHER!
LET ME GO!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MR. NICE HEAD OF HAIR?
I'LL...
BUT... WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOUR POWERS ARE MISFIRING, PERHAPS? CAN'T SMEAR PEOPLE ON THE WALL WITH THE POWER OF THOUGHT?
CALL THE SUPPORT NUMBER YOU SEE ON THE MENTAL SCREEN THAT I JUST CREATED.
HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?
I'LL ANSWER THE SAME WAY YOU ANSWERED ME THE FIRST TIME WE MET. SIMPLY...

... I CAN!
UNNNGH!
WHAT THE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, FROUD.
SOCK
FRUSH
ZIGGY! GET THE GUN!
WITH MY HANDS TIED?
I-I CAN'T HELP. I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE. CONCENTRATE...
AH!
SOCK
YOU'RE STRONG, DUCK. VERY STRONG.
THANKS FOR THE COMPLIMENT, BUT I ONLY LEARNED TO USE MY HEAD.


KRUMB
GOOD. LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE!
SKRATCH

HEY! I'M COLD!
OH! EVERYONE DOWN!
WOOOOOOO
KA-BRAAM
BUT... BUT...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! Y-YOU CAN'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS TOO!
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE FACT OF BEING ABLE TO MAINTAIN ALL THOSE STONES IN MIDAIR?

TRIFLES, FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS SPENT THE NIGHT TRAINING WITH DONUT CRUMBS!
AH!
NICE SHOW, BUT IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE GIRL, STOP IT!
LET HER GO!
HEY! THAT'S MY LINE!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, ETHAN. NOW THAT SHE'S IN OUR HANDS...
YOUR HANDS ARE NOT WORTHY OF TOUCHING HER!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WE MUST FOLLOW THE PLAN THAT...
EXPLOITING THE LIKES OF US TO GET RICH! THAT'S WHAT YOUR PLAN IS!

YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY? I'M TIRED OF YOU. TIRED OF THE FACTORY. TIRED OF EVERYTHING!
CALM DOWN, ETHAN! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU CAN CAUSE WHEN YOU GET OUT OF CONTROL.
CALM DOWN, ETHAN! RELAX, ETHAN! TAKE A DEEP BREATH, ETHAN. ENOUGH!
W-WAIT. I WANT TO HELP YOU. I...
I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP. I ONLY WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY. GOT IT?
GRRR
FAR AWAY!
CRRRRR

CRASH

RUMBLE

WOOOSH

THE DAM'S BURSTING!

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT I FEEL I'M IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

SNAP

SORRY, BUT THE GIRL'S COMING WITH ME!

RUMBLEEE

NO!

ETHAN!

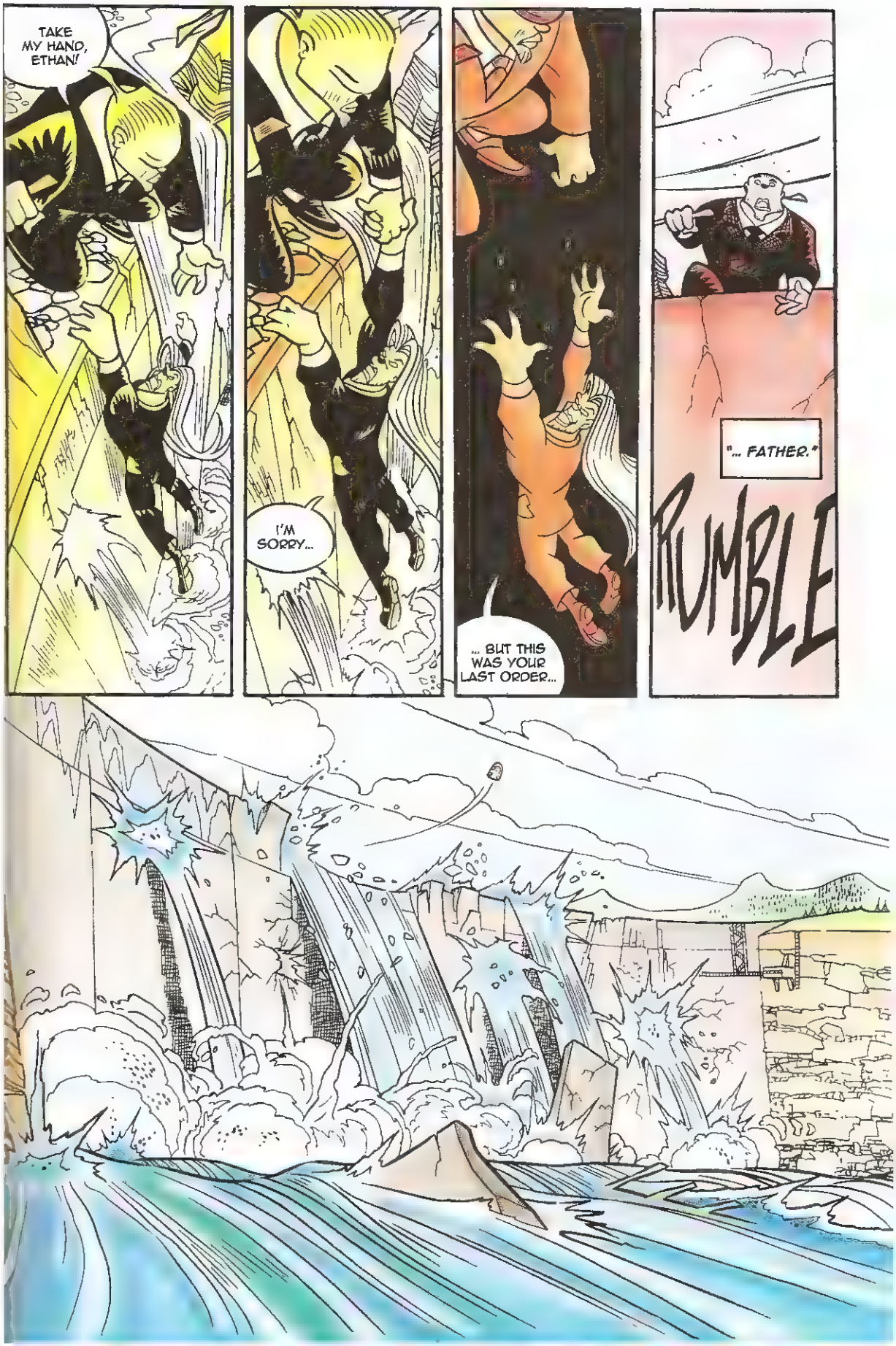
KRAAASH

NEED A LIFT?

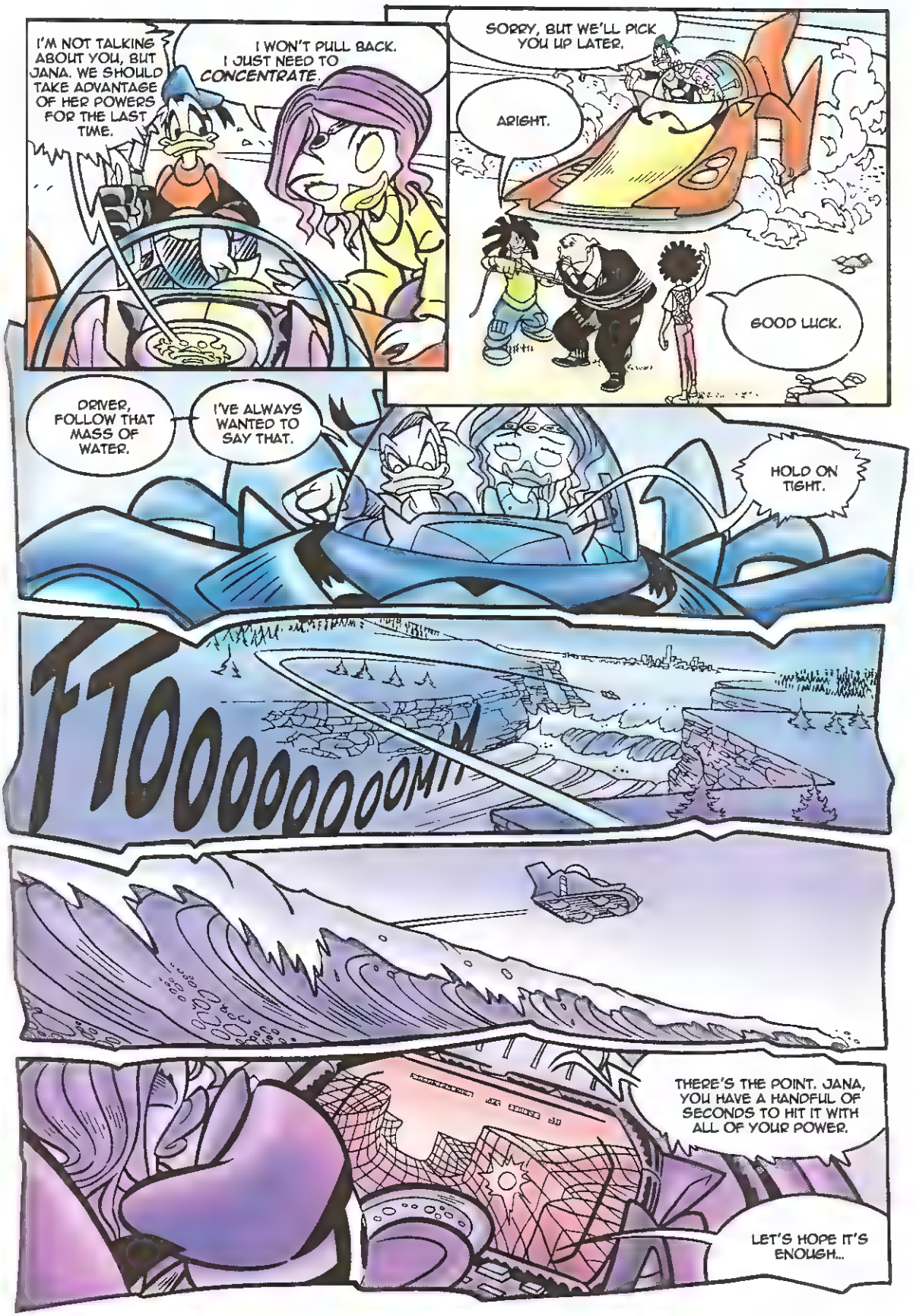
YES, AS LONG AS IT CAN CONTAIN EVERYONE.

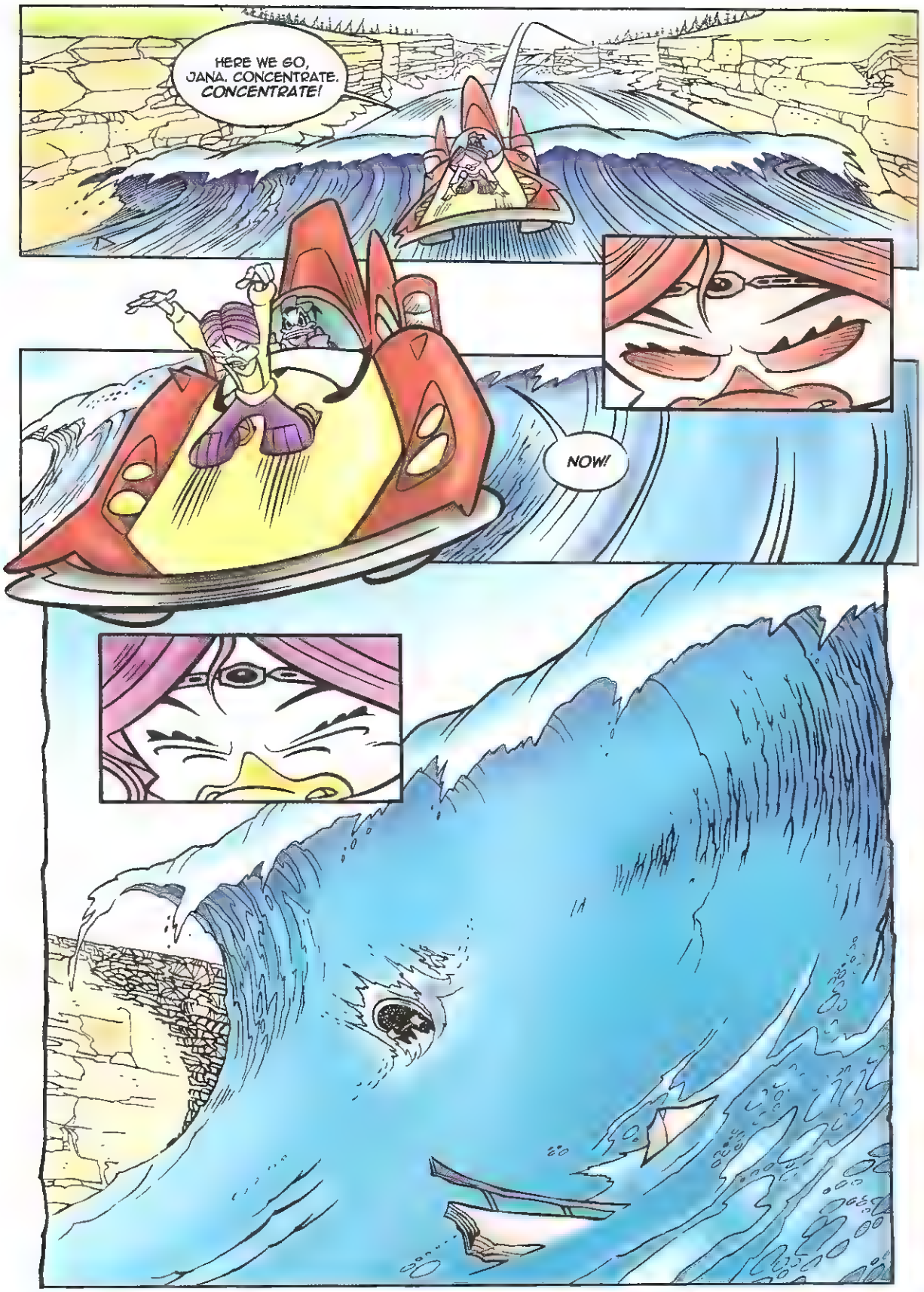
I'LL SIT IN THE TRUNK, IF NECESSARY, BUT BE QUICK. EVERYTHING'S JUMPING HERE.

WAIT, ONE! WE HAVE TO PICK UP TWO MORE PASS-ENGERS!

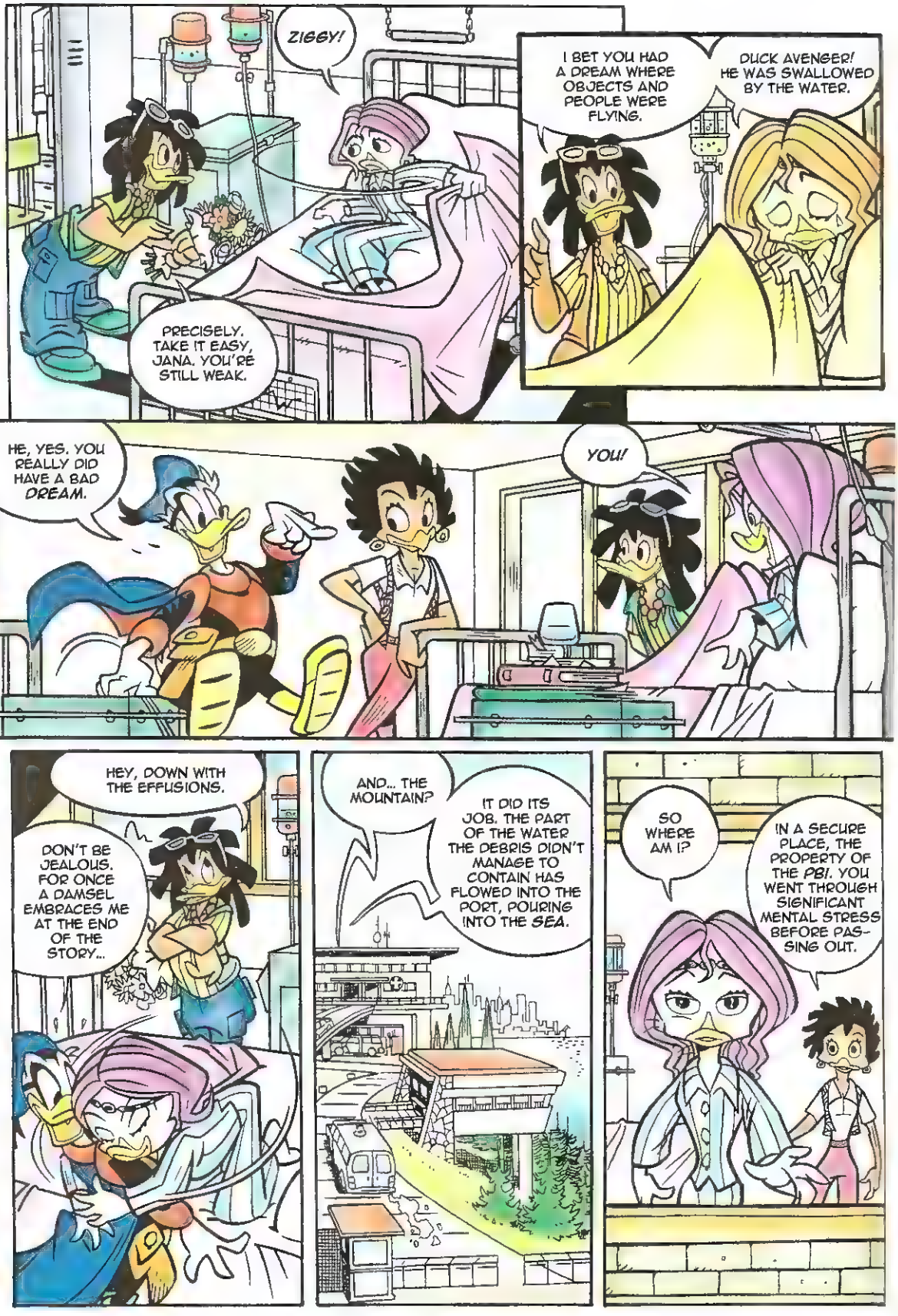

TAKE MY HAND, ETHAN!
I'M SORRY...
... BUT THIS WAS YOUR LAST ORDER...
"... FATHER."
RUMBLE

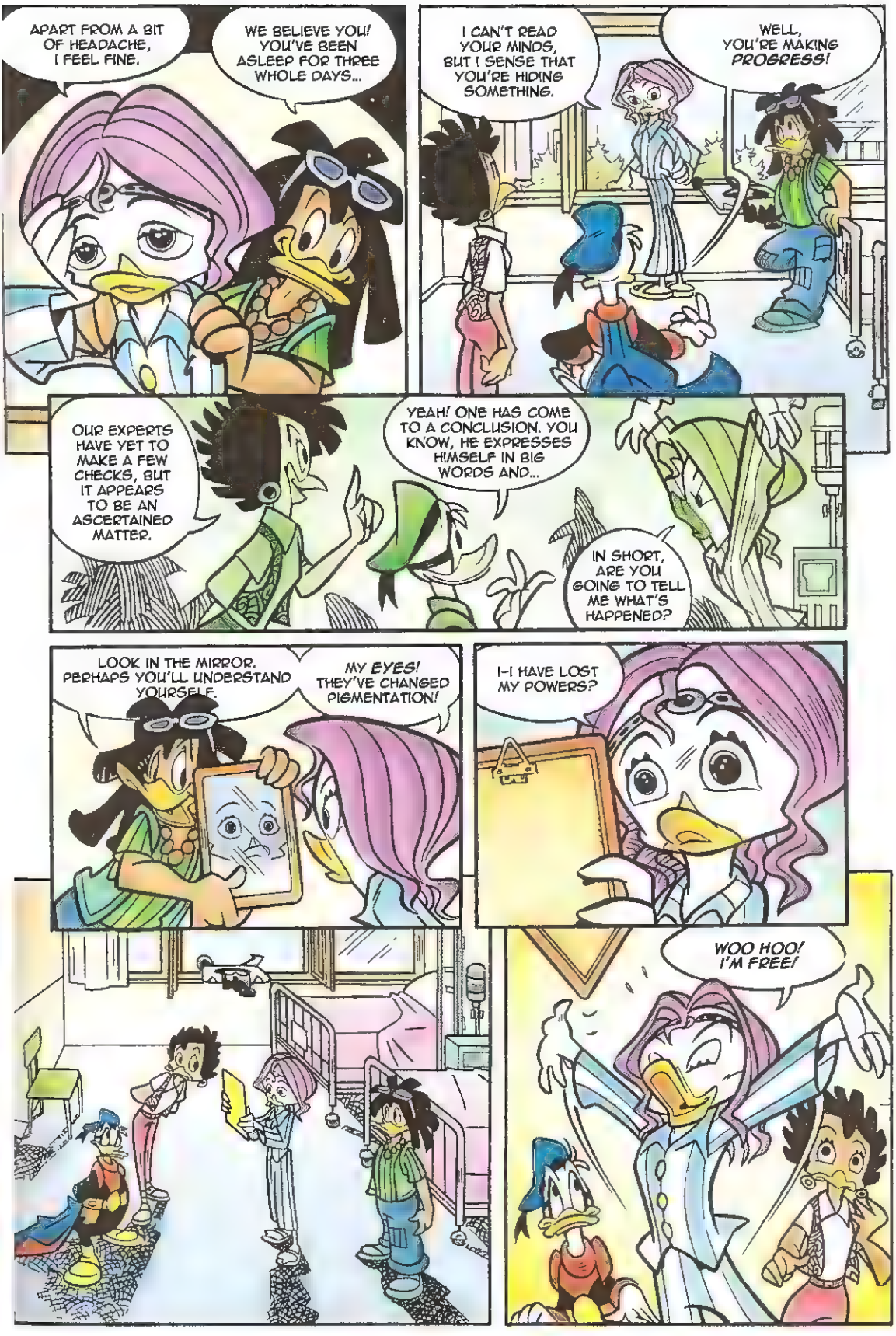
GOT YOU!
RRRRUMBLE
IT'S NOT OVER. THAT ENORMOUS MASS OF WATER IS GOING DOWN THE VALLEY.
AND IT'S HEADING TOWARDS DUCKBURG.
OKAY, IT'S THE TIME FOR HEROES.
WHY, DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE?
WE HAVE ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY! TO BRING DOWN PARTS OF THE MOUNTAIN, BEFORE THE WATER POURS OUT OVER THE PLAINS.
YOU'RE OVERESTIMATING. NOT EVEN YOU HAVE SUCH FIREPOWER.

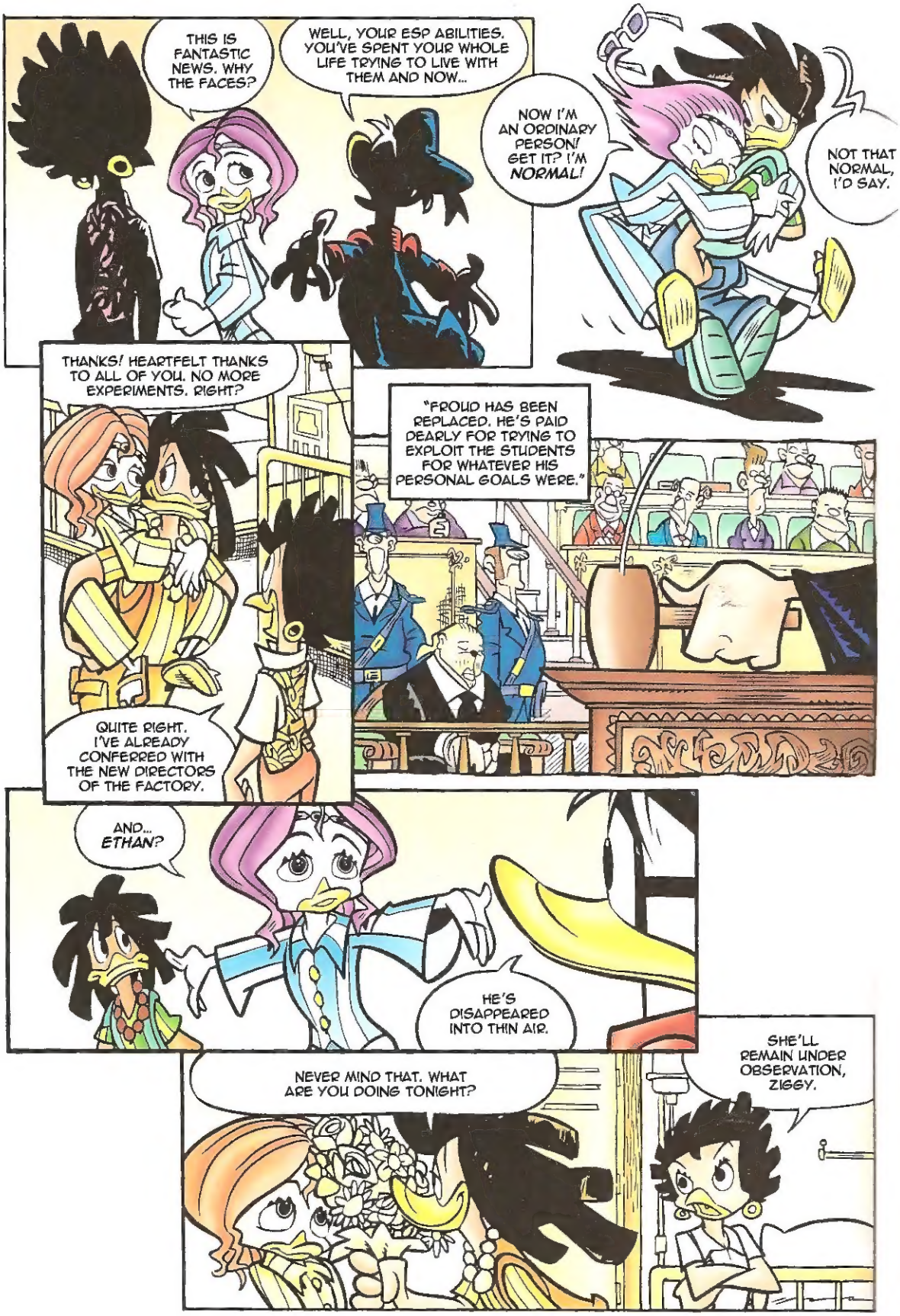

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOU, BUT JANA. WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER POWERS FOR THE LAST TIME.
I WON'T PULL BACK. I JUST NEED TO CONCENTRATE.
SORRY, BUT WE'LL PICK YOU UP LATER.
ARIGHT.
GOOD LUCK.
DRIVER, FOLLOW THAT MASS OF WATER.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT.
HOLD ON TIGHT.
FTOOOOOOOOM!!
THERE'S THE POINT. JANA, YOU HAVE A HANDFUL OF SECONDS TO HIT IT WITH ALL OF YOUR POWER.
LET'S HOPE IT'S ENOUGH...

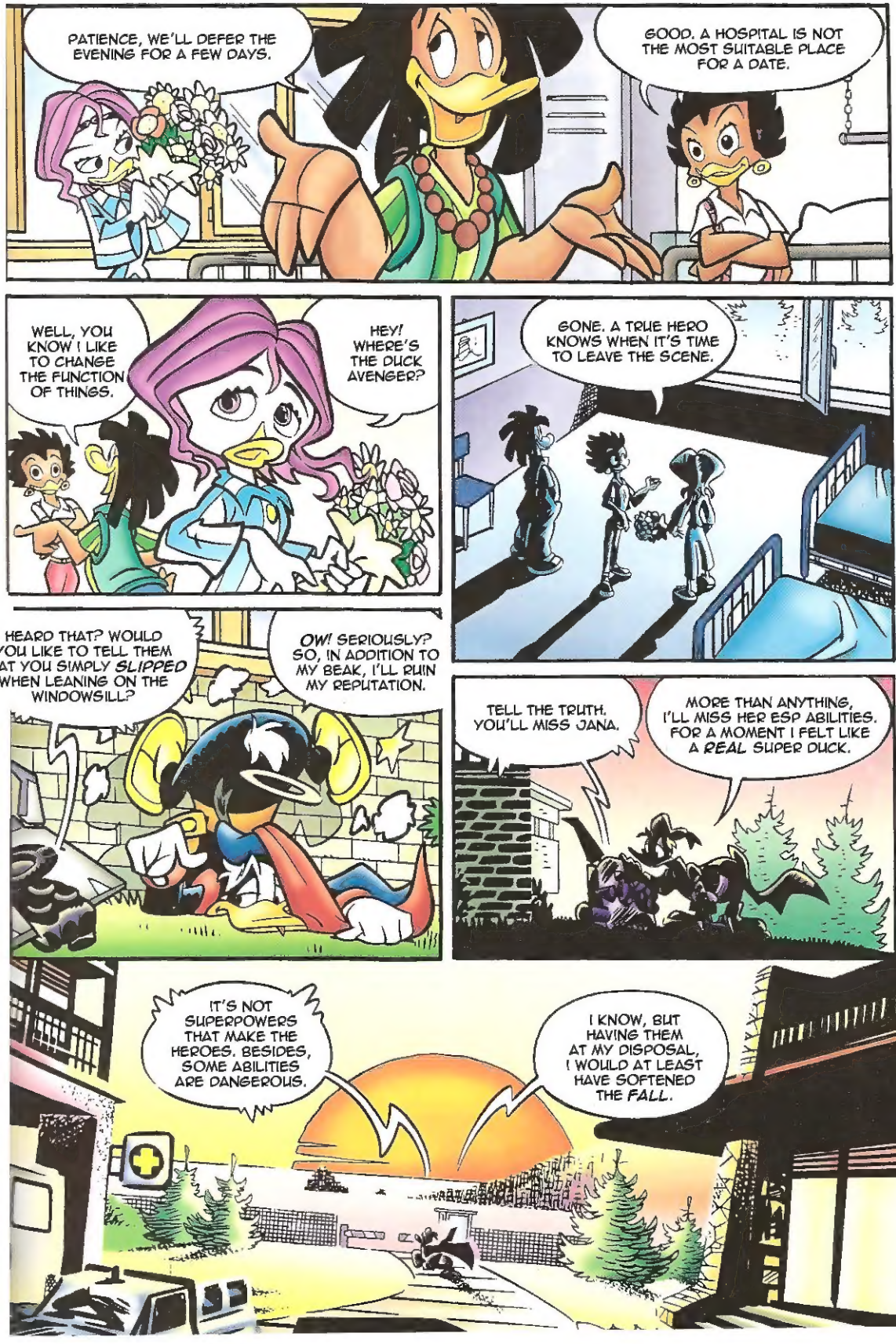

HERE WE GO, JANA. CONCENTRATE. CONCENTRATE!
NOW!

"FOR THE LAST TIME, JANA..."
"BREATHE."


ZIGGY!
PRECISELY. TAKE IT EASY, JANA. YOU'RE STILL WEAK.
I BET YOU HAD A DREAM WHERE OBJECTS AND PEOPLE WERE FLYING.
DUCK AVENGER! HE WAS SWALLOWED BY THE WATER.
HE, YES. YOU REALLY DID HAVE A BAD *DREAM*.
YOU!
HEY, DOWN WITH THE EFFUSIONS.
DON'T BE JEALOUS. FOR ONCE A DAMSEL EMBRACES ME AT THE END OF THE STORY...
AND... THE MOUNTAIN?
IT DID ITS JOB. THE PART OF THE WATER THE DEBRIS DIDN'T MANAGE TO CONTAIN HAS FLOWED INTO THE PORT, POURING INTO THE *SEA*.
SO WHERE AM I?
IN A SECURE PLACE, THE PROPERTY OF THE *PBI*. YOU WENT THROUGH SIGNIFICANT MENTAL STRESS BEFORE PASSING OUT.

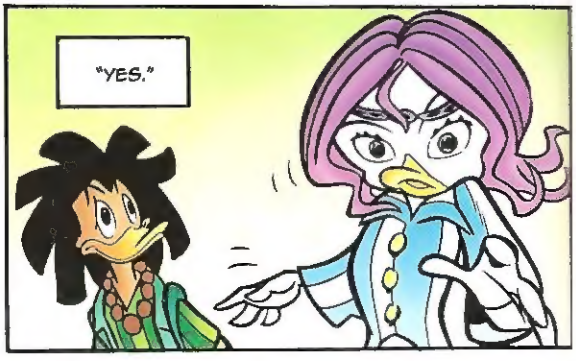

APART FROM A BIT OF HEADACHE, I FEEL FINE.
WE BELIEVE YOU! YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS...
I CAN'T READ YOUR MINDS, BUT I SENSE THAT YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.
WELL, YOU'RE MAKING PROGRESS!
OUR EXPERTS HAVE YET TO MAKE A FEW CHECKS, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE AN ASCERTAINED MATTER.
YEAH! ONE HAS COME TO A CONCLUSION. YOU KNOW, HE EXPRESSES HIMSELF IN BIG WORDS AND...
IN SHORT, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENED?
LOOK IN THE MIRROR. PERHAPS YOU'LL UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.
MY EYES! THEY'VE CHANGED PIGMENTATION!
I-I HAVE LOST MY POWERS?
WOO HOO! I'M FREE!


THIS IS FANTASTIC NEWS. WHY THE FACES?
WELL, YOUR ESP ABILITIES. YOU'VE SPENT YOUR WHOLE LIFE TRYING TO LIVE WITH THEM AND NOW...
NOW I'M AN ORDINARY PERSON! GET IT? I'M NORMAL!
NOT THAT NORMAL, I'D SAY.
THANKS! HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF YOU. NO MORE EXPERIMENTS. RIGHT?
"FROUD HAS BEEN REPLACED. HE'S PAID DEARLY FOR TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE STUDENTS FOR WHATEVER HIS PERSONAL GOALS WERE."
QUITE RIGHT. I'VE ALREADY CONFERRED WITH THE NEW DIRECTORS OF THE FACTORY.
AND... ETHAN?
HE'S DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR.
NEVER MIND THAT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TONIGHT?
SHE'LL REMAIN UNDER OBSERVATION, ZIGGY.


PATIENCE, WE'LL DEFER THE EVENING FOR A FEW DAYS.
GOOD. A HOSPITAL IS NOT THE MOST SUITABLE PLACE FOR A DATE.
WELL, YOU KNOW I LIKE TO CHANGE THE FUNCTION OF THINGS.
HEY! WHERE'S THE DUCK AVENGER?
GONE. A TRUE HERO KNOWS WHEN IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE SCENE.
HEARD THAT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL THEM THAT YOU SIMPLY SLIPPED WHEN LEANING ON THE WINDOWSILL?
OW! SERIOUSLY? SO, IN ADDITION TO MY BEAK, I'LL RUIN MY REPUTATION.
TELL THE TRUTH. YOU'LL MISS JANA.
MORE THAN ANYTHING, I'LL MISS HER ESP ABILITIES. FOR A MOMENT I FELT LIKE A REAL SUPER DUCK.
IT'S NOT SUPERPOWERS THAT MAKE THE HEROES. BESIDES, SOME ABILITIES ARE DANGEROUS.
I KNOW, BUT HAVING THEM AT MY DISPOSAL, I WOULD AT LEAST HAVE SOFTENED THE FALL.

DO YOU KNOW, ZIGGY? I WAS BORN NEAR THE SEA AND HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT SMELLS GOOD EVEN HERE.
REALLY? I DON'T SMELL ANYTHING.
8

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH. DO YOU FEEL IT, THIS AIR?


"YES."

WHAT IS IT, JANA?
N-NOTHING. IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIND.

FOR AN INSTANT, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING. A NOISE. A SOUND. MILD AS...

... A BREATH.

FINE